



Waitematā

District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

### Hospital Services

North Shore Hospital Campus

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Dear [REDACTED]

#### Re: OIA request – alcohol impairment / assaults

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 4 July 2019 concerning details about incidents relating to alcohol impairment.

Before responding to your questions, some contextual information about our population, services and staff may be useful in understanding the information provided.

Waitematā DHB serves the largest population of any district health board in New Zealand, currently standing at more than 630,000 people.

Our DHB has a workforce of more than 7500 staff spread across more than 80 sites. In addition to caring for our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services and the national provider of hyperbaric medicine.

1. *Since January 1, 2018 until today's date, on how many occasions have Police or hospital security been called to help contain issues with patients or visitors who were believed to be impaired by alcohol? This should include but not be limited to incidents at the Emergency Department.*

We are unable to provide this information as we do not keep specific data on whether or not alcohol is involved when police and/or our hospital security is called.

2. *Since January 1, 2018 until today's date, how many staff have reported being abused, harassed or physically assaulted by patients or people visiting patients who were suspected of being under the influence of alcohol? This should include but not be limited to reports of issues at the Emergency Department. Please provide a breakdown of the various incidents with a brief description of what happened.*

From 1 January 2018 to 4 July 2019, 28 (twenty eight) staff have been abused, harassed or assaulted by patients or visitors who were suspected of being under the influence of alcohol. None of the staff involved were physically injured. A brief summary of the incidents is noted below:

Nature of incident	Type of incident	Number
Verbal assault	Intimidation	1
	Verbal aggression/abuse	10
	Threat of physical violence/aggression	3
	Death threat	1
Physical assault	Physically aggressive	10
	A projectile was thrown during the incident	1
	Physically violent: required restraint during incident	2

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitematā DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



**Cath Cronin**  
**Director Hospital Services**  
**Waitematā District Health Board**