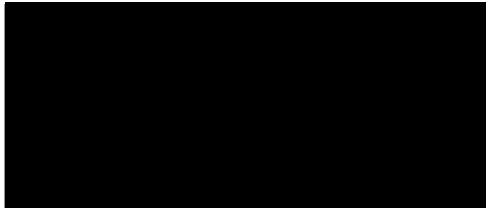




Waitemata
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

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24 July 2018



Dear 

Re: OIA request

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 9 July 2018 seeking the following information from Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

I would like a copy of any and all information, totaling the number of Medical Practitioners who have been charged with sexual assault offences whilst being employed by the Waitemata District Health Board.

Please include the gender of those charged, what the offence or offences were, what year the charges were laid and what the outcome of charges were.

And I ask that anything within the spirit of this request that is not mentioned be included in the response.

Before responding to your specific questions, some contextual information may assist your understanding of the scale of our services and our workforce.

Waitemata DHB is the largest DHB in the country, serving a population of more than 630,000 people and employing around 7,500 staff. In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are also a regional provider of care across forensic psychiatry, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, child and adolescent dental and child disability services.

We encourage the reporting of all incidents and promote a policy of ensuring that the safety and security of staff and patients is approached in line with our organisational values.

Upon receiving your request, Waitemata DHB contacted you on 9 July seeking clarification around the timeframe it was intended to cover. We suggested five years as a reasonable time period and advised that going back further would make the request large and difficult to manage. In reply, you indicated that you required data over a 10-year period.

We can advise that there have been no cases of Waitemata DHB-employed medical practitioners charged with sexual assault during the last five years. Waitemata DHB is unaware of any such cases during the preceding five years, either, and we believe it highly unlikely that such a situation would have occurred without our knowledge.

However, it is impossible to state this with absolute certainty without reviewing individual personnel files, which would be a major undertaking likely to qualify as substantial collation or research under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

Waitemata 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fiona McCarthy', written over a faint dotted line.

Fiona McCarthy
Director Human Resources
Waitemata District Health Board