

07 May 2019

Thank you for your email dated 15 April 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 regarding assaults on nurses by members of the public. You requested:

1. *“The total number of assaults against nurses by members of the public from 2013-2018”* and
2. *“How many assaults against nurses by members of the public, broken down by each year from 2013-2018”*.

In your request you have not provided a definition for what is meant by ‘members of the public’. I am presuming that you are referring to patients under the care of the District Health Board at the time of the assault as well as visitors (non-patients) to the hospital or to our community bases.

Hutt Valley District Health Board’s incident database SQuARE (Safety, Quality and Reportable Events) became operational in March 2016. Information prior to this date has been archived and is not easily retrievable for analysis. This response provides data from 01 March 2016 to 31 December 2018 pertaining to incidents entered into the database under the Staff and Other Health and Safety category ‘Violence (Physical Assault)’ and under the clinical category ‘Physically assaulted staff’ where the staff member identified is a nurse.

Please note that in some cases the same event will attract two entries into SQuARE as a result of it being entered in both areas.

The information pertaining to your request is below.

Question 1:

The total number of incidents entered by staff as an assault on a nurse by a member of the public for the period 01/03/2016 to 31/12/2018 = 151

Question 2:

The total number of incidents entered by staff as an assault on a nurse by a member of the public broken down by each year:

2016	2017	2018
50	62	39