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31 October 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H2022014200

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA Act) which was transferred from Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand to Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 7 October 2022 for information about mental health services. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

*How soon after a person held under the mental health act is released, are they required to visit mental health services for a follow up?*

There is no legal basis under the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 (the Mental Health Act) for follow-up or post-discharge care once an individual has been released from compulsory assessment or treatment. Once the person has been released from compulsory status any, care is on a voluntary basis and, therefore, needs to be agreed between the clinician and the person receiving care. Any follow-up at that point is arranged on an individual basis with agreement with the person.

*Over the past five years how many people have been detained for treatment under the mental health act? Displayed by individual year.*

The Office of the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services publishes information each year on compulsory assessment and treatment under the Mental Health Act. The most recent of these reports, covers the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. This report was published in September 2022 and is available at: [www.health.govt.nz/publication/office-director-mental-health-and-addiction-services-regulatory-report-1-july-2020-30-june-2021](http://www.health.govt.nz/publication/office-director-mental-health-and-addiction-services-regulatory-report-1-july-2020-30-june-2021).

Previous years (back to 2005) can be found at: [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addiction/mental-health-and-addiction-monitoring-reporting-and-data](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addiction/mental-health-and-addiction-monitoring-reporting-and-data).

*Of those people how many have been seen by mental health services in the recommended timeframe? (The timeframe identified in the first questions)*

As there is no recommended timeframe, and any follow-up or post-discharge care is instead based on individual need, no information is available in relation to this request. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA Act as the information requested does not exist.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the OIA Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A.C.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Arran Culver  
**Associate Deputy Director-General  
Mental Health and Addictions**