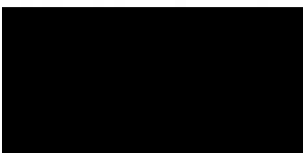


12 APR 2018



**ORANGA
TAMARIKI**
Ministry for Children

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2018 to Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development, requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 8 March 2018, your request was refined to the following:

- *An update on your previous Official Information Act request on the number of violent incidents that occur within Oranga Tamariki facilities, up to and including 28 February 2018.*

On 14 March 2018, your request was transferred to Hon Tracey Martin, Minister for Children who transferred it, on 20 March 2018, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) for response.

We have interpreted 'violent incidences' to mean physical assault and verbal abuse. Physical assaults can include spitting, attempted injury and minor, moderate or serious injury.

The table below shows the total number of physical assaults and verbal abuse involving members of the public, other clients and staff of Oranga Tamariki from financial year 2012/13 to 28 February 2018.

Financial years	Physical assault (OT Operations, excluding Residences)	Verbal abuse (OT Operations, excluding Residences)
2012/13	9	41
2013/14	11	108
2014/15	17	187
2015/16	53	336
2016/17	46	306
2017/18 (YTD 28/02/2018)	28	205

Please note this data excludes Youth Justice and Care and Protection Residences. Residences utilise specific criteria to record their incidents and not the generic security criteria.

You will see from the table there was a significant increase in the number of physical assaults and verbal abuse incidents reported. This is because the Ministry of Social Development implemented a zero tolerance policy towards threatening behaviour, and incidents that may not have been reported previously are now being captured by improved reporting processes and systems.

We intend to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response about total number of physical assaults and verbal abuse to 28 February 2018 with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@mvcot.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Groom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Groom
General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services