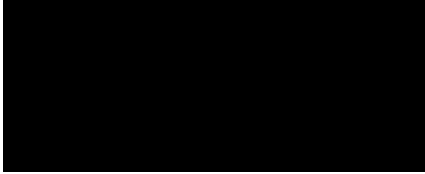


Our reference: **ACTHDFOI23-24.41**



### **DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION**

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received by the ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) on Monday 18 March 2024, which was then **rescoped on Wednesday 10 April 2024**.

This application requested access to:

*'Under Freedom of Information Act: I seek all data held by ACT Health relating to patients admitted to Canberra Hospital and North Canberra Hospital/Calvary public hospital with an injury caused by contact with animals, specifically dogs, for the period July 2012 to June 2022, broken down by financial year.'*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. ACTHD was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Thursday 23 May 2024**.

ACT health has collated the data into one document holding the information within scope of your access application.

#### **Decisions**

I have decided to grant full access to one document. The document released to you is provided as Attachment A to this letter.

Noting the data presented here includes all separations with an external cause code indicating a dog bite or strike, the principal reason for admission may not relate to the injury incurred via the dog bite or strike. External cause and injury diagnoses cannot generally be unequivocally linked in the available data.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

#### **Charges**

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

### **Disclosure Log**

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, ACTHD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log>.

### **Ombudsman review**

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in ACT Health's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman  
GPO Box 442  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Via email: [ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au)  
Website: [ombudsman.act.gov.au](http://ombudsman.act.gov.au)

### **ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review**

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal  
Allara House  
15 Constitution Avenue  
GPO Box 370  
Canberra City ACT 2601  
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740  
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

### **Further assistance**

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email [HealthFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthFOI@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Mr Michael Culhane  
**Executive Group Manager**  
Policy, Partnerships and Programs Division  
21 May 2024

## Policy, Partnerships and Programs Division

Data Analytics Branch

ACT Health Data Repository

PPP-1375: FOI Data Request - Number of separations due to contact with dogs by financial year, July 2012 to June 2022



ACT Health

Date Range: 01/07/2012 - 30/06/2022

**Table 1: Number of standard separations at ACT public hospitals with an an external cause of "bitten or struck by dog", by financial year**

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Separations</b>
2021-22	487
2020-21	422
2019-20	346
2018-19	275
2017-18	246
2016-17	224
2015-16	159
2014-15	146
2013-14	107
2012-13	95

**Note:**

1. The current extract draws data from the ACT Admitted Patient Care Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) submissions 2012-13 through 2021-22.
2. Numbers represent standard separations only (that is, separations where care type was newborn with unqualified days only (7.3), organ procurement - posthumous (9), or hospital boarder (10) have been excluded).
3. Number include separations with an ICD-10-AM external cause code of W54 (Bitten or struck by dog).
4. While the extract includes all standard separations with an external cause code of 'bitten or struck by dog', the principal reason for admission may not relate to the injury incurred via the dog bite or strike. External cause and injury diagnoses cannot be unequivocally linked in the available data.
5. The report reflects clinical information recorded at the time the NMDSs used for this extract was created.
6. Data is accurate as of 10 May 2024.