

8 October 2020

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020126

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 22 September 2020 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

I'm writing a story looking at how the country's clinical workforces are being deployed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Could you please tell me, week on week, for the last six months, what your respective DHB's hospital bed occupancy rates have been?***

Please refer to the table below for occupancy rates weeks on week for the last six months. Note: data includes all hospital wards – medical, surgical, ICU/HDU, rehabilitation and assessment units; excluded is maternity and paediatric services.

| Week starting: | Occupancy Rate |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 24 February 2020 | 79% |
| 2 March 2020 | 80% |
| 9 March 2020 | 81% |
| 16 March 2020 | 80% |
| 23 March 2020 | 72% |
| 30 March 2020 | 75% |
| 6 April 2020 | 80% |
| 13 April 2020 | 81% |
| 20 April 2020 | 82% |
| 27 April 2020 | 90% |
| 4 May 2020 | 85% |
| 11 May 2020 | 84% |
| 18 May 2020 | 89% |
| 25 May 2020 | 92% |
| 1 June 2020 | 93% |
| 8 June 2020 | 92% |
| 15 June 2020 | 97% |
| 22 June 2020 | 96% |
| 29 June 2020 | 94% |
| 6 July 2020 | 97% |
| 13 July 2020 | 96% |
| 20 July 2020 | 96% |
| 27 July 2020 | 95% |

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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| Week starting: | Occupancy Rate |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 August 2020 | 101% |
| 10 August 2020 | 98% |
| 17 August 2020 | 94% |
| 24 August 2020 | 96% |
| 31 August 2020 | 98% |
| 7 September 2020 | 97% |
| 14 September 2020 | 100% |
| 21 September 2020 | 98% |

COVID-19 alert level restrictions have also had an impact on lowering seasonal influenza contraction and therefore hospitalisation rates, which in some cases, means hospital wards are less busy.

- **To this point, where has your DHB's clinical workforce, especially ward staff, when under-utilised, been redeployed to?**

As you can see from the data provided above, hospital occupancy dropped slightly for only two weeks in March. The DHB has an escalation plan that allows the hospital to respond quickly to issues of staff resourcing or patient demand.

Within Hawke's Bay Hospital COVID-19 did not require the standard escalation response; however several clinical areas were relocated to ensure we had the correct clinical space and patient flow to ensure all patients received appropriate safe and high quality care.

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

Chris Ash
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