

3 December 2020

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020146

I refer to your Official Information Act request transferred to district health boards by the Ministry of Health on 6 November 2020. Your questions and Hawke's Bay DHB's response is provided below:

"I would like information regarding how many foreign nationals have been charged by our public health system categorized by number of charges and nationality/passport region [between April 1st 2019 to 31st March 2020] ...by charges I mean transactions. e.g A foreign national visits Christchurch hospital due to an emergency, spends time in the bed and is medicated (possibly a minor operation is performed). At the end of the day He/She is discharged and charged/invoiced a certain amount for the services. The example above I would consider as 1 charge."

Hawke's Bay DHB requests information from patients to determine their eligibility for free health care, for example whether they are a New Zealand citizen, a permanent resident or have a particular visa status. The DHB does not collect information on nationality or passport region as it is not relevant to the determination of eligibility. Therefore HBDHB, under section 18 (e) of the Official Information Act 1982 relating to information that does not exist, is unable to provide the information you have requested.

While we are not able to provide the specific information you have requested the following information may be of interest: the total invoiced by HBDHB in the 2019/20 financial year to non-eligible patients was \$474,000 (including GST).

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

Carriann Hall
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FINANCIAL SERVICES
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cc: Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz oia@hbdhb.govt.nz