

28 April 2021

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021028

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 19 March 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

I would like to request, under the Official Information Act, information about patients placed in isolation within DHB hospitals to prevent the spread of disease. Could you please provide the following data in an excel spreadsheet?

- 1. The number of patients placed in isolation in a DHB hospital in the 2018, 2019 and 2020 calendar years, broken down by year***

Refer to the table below for the number of patients placed in medical isolation:

Year	2018	2019	2020
Number of patients	100	140	381

- 2. What condition each person had***

- 3. What type of isolation were they in - contact, droplet, airborne, protective etc***

Also, can you please tell me:

- 4. What the longest stint in continuous isolation was during those three years, what condition it was for and what type of isolation they were in.***

Hawke's Bay DHB does not code patient records to this level of detail. To provide this information would require the retrieval of 621 patient files and a manual review (estimate in excess of 300 hours work) of the patient notes by clinical staff, effectively taking them away from their usual duties delivering frontline health services. Therefore under Section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act, relating to substantial review and collation, HBDHB decline to provide the information requested.

- 5. What PPE and protocols are required for each type of isolation (contact, droplet, airborne, protective, etc)?***

Refer attachment – HBDHB Infection Prevention Control Standard Precautions.

- 6. How many of last year's cases were COVID-19 related?***

Seventy two of the 381 patients in 2020 recorded as being placed into medical isolation as a potential COVID-19 'warm or hot' patient. *Note: of these 72 patients, three returned a positive COVID-19 test result.*

7. Did the emergence of COVID-19 cause changes to any of the PPE or protocols required?

No. The DHB's standard transmission-based precautions were used along with guidance provided by the Ministry of Health.

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

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