

3 June 2021

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021058

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 21 May 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

(name redacted) This is an OIA request: who gave sign off permission for this post to be made? Have any PR firms or similar been part of the DHB's public responses to this strike action?

The ombudsman has previously indicated that OIA requests CAN be made via social media comments.

External PR firms or similar have not been part of the DHB's public responses to this upcoming strike action.

Hawke's Bay DHB's contingency planning includes calling for volunteers to help assist during strike action. This includes issuing a press release via the DHB's communications team and publishing the release on social media as well as internally.

By way of background, the DHB's previous call for volunteers was to help support the 2018 NZNO member strike. This saw 62 volunteers put their names forward.

Please see the link below which is a DHB press release calling for volunteers on 20 June 2018 in advance of the 2018 NZNO strike. <http://ourhealthhb.nz/news-and-events/archive-news-articles/volunteers-called-for-following-strike-notice/>

Please refer to a DHB press release (update 1) issued on 12 July 2018 (first day of strike) below: <http://ourhealthhb.nz/news-and-events/archive-news-articles/hawkes-bay-district-health-board-new-zealand-nurses-organisation-strike-action-update-1/>

Following the strike, the DHB also thanked its volunteers via Facebook who helped during the strike period. See here:

<https://www.facebook.com/HawkesBayDHB/photos/a.641781195885935/1948314288565946>

Volunteers are police vetted. They are trained in privacy and health and safety when working in clinical environments in order to provide additional support to our working staff. Non-clinical volunteers do not perform clinical duties, rather are there to provide additional supports such as delivering meal trays and helping patients open meals if unable, filling up water jugs, assisting patients/whānau to rest rooms/wash rooms etc.

As part of our contingency planning, medical, allied health and clinical staff as well as nursing staff who are not NZNO members also offer their support and are seconded to areas where needed.

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 McKenna
Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer

cc: *Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIAs@moh.govt.nz
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