

Corporate Services



13 August 2021

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021081

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 16 July 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

***"The main problem seems to be a shortage of hospital beds. I did some research and found data from the WHO (World Health Organization) for 2019 about the number of hospital beds per 1000 people,
New Zealand 2.57
United Kingdom 2.5
USA 2.9
Australia 3.8
European Union 4.6
Germany 8.0
The number of beds in NZ in 2009 was 2.41, so only an increase of 7% but the population grew by 16%.
Hawkes Bay DHB is serving 176.110 people, the HB hospital has 364 beds, that is 2.06 beds per 1000 or 25 % lower than the national number".***

Hawke's Bay DHB has 349 beds at Hastings hospital and 15 Rural beds which includes beds at Wairoa Hospital and Central Hawke's Bay as they are part of the Hawke's Bay DHB. These numbers are the resource beds available.

In addition to this, Hawke's Bay DHB has a ten bed area capable of being used as "surge" capacity when demand is elevated. In reality, this has been routinely used in the last three months and not infrequently before that.

Hawke's Bay DHB can also reconfigure beds and regularly reviews the designation of beds between acute work and elective surgery. As a result of COVID-19 Hawke's Bay DHB invested in work to our Gastroenterology unit to enable its use as an additional Intensive Care Unit (ICU). This would be a measure only activated under exceptional circumstances.

The population denominator used for Hawke's Bay DHB is 176,110 for the financial year 2020/2021.

Hawke's Bay DHB cannot comment on the population ratio to bed numbers you have researched above as that information is not held by Hawke's Bay DHB.

C H I E F E X E C U T I V E ' S O F F I C E
Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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Hawke's Bay DHB works in conjunction with other DHBs to provide services to the Hawke's Bay population and therefore population ratio to bed numbers in Hawke's Bay do not accurately reflect the situation. The Hawke's Bay population can access a number of regional or tertiary level services from other DHBs, such as Palmerston North, Wellington or Hutt Hospitals.

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



Emma Foster
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Planning, Funding & Performance

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