

2 December 2021

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021141**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 20 October 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

***With respect, I request the following information under the terms of the Official Information Act 1982:***

- 1. Data on the raw number of caesarean sections conducted at the DHB broken down like this:***

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Planned												
Emergency												

- 2. Data on the number of episiotomies conducted at the DHB since 2010, broken down by year***
- 3. Data on the number of epidurals conducted at the DHB since 2010, broken down by year***
- 4. Data on the number of births at DHB facilities, broken down by year, since 2010***
- 5. Data on the average number of FTE core midwifery positions (NOT community midwives) employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2010***
- 6. Data on the average number of FTE community midwifery positions employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2010***
- 7. Data on spending/cost of maternity services per year, broken down by year since 2010 (NOT including building maintenance and upgrades, just staffing and the costs of actually running the services)***
- 8. Data on the average number of FTE obstetrician positions/ average hours worked by obstetricians employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2010***
- 9. Data on the number of code reds that have occurred at the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2010***
- 10. Data on the number of code blacks that have occurred at the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2010***
- 11. Data on the average number of beds within the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2010***
- 12. Data on maternal deaths during or shortly before/after labour (within 7 days), broken down by year since 2010***
- 13. Data on deaths of babies during or shortly before/after birth (within 7 days), broken down by year since 2010***

Please see Table 1 below which answers questions one, two, three and four for the years 2011 to 2021.

**Table 1**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Sum
Caesarean	481	585	515	504	476	494	492	484	511	561	513	5616
Episiotomy	0	0	0	0	0	54	122	105	80	100	88	549
Epidural	0	0	0	0	0	171	323	254	236	264	246	1494
Birth	2278	2290	2163	2124	2009	2052	2147	2143	2044	2123	1946	23319

In response to question five, six and seven, please see Table 2 below.

**Table 2**

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (SMO & RMO) FTE	17.5	16.3	17.3	17.4	15.4
Midwives (including senior midwives) FTE	50.1	49.4	50.8	50.2	49.2
Maternity Service Cost \$	\$ 11,871,086	\$ 11,512,743	\$ 11,007,869	\$ 10,308,043	\$ 10,275,461

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (SMO & RMO) FTE	15.7	14.5	13.4	10.6	11.8	13.1
Midwives (including senior midwives) FTE	43.8	44.1	45.0	44.6	43.8	42.4
Maternity Service Cost \$	\$ 9,436,401	\$ 9,135,615	\$ 8,995,948	\$ 9,134,119	\$ 8,887,580	\$ 8,380,187

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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Please note that with the information provided in Table 2, it is based on the financial year of 1 July to 30 June. The information provided in the table includes Registered Midwives across HBDHB and Senior Midwives within Ata Rangi.

In response to questions five and six, information for FTE employed midwives and community midwives cannot be extrapolated out as it is digitally coded altogether therefore under section 18 (g) of the Official Information Act relating to information not held decline to provide a response to this portion of your request. HBDHB can however provide the information as we collect it which has employed and community midwives shown together in Table 2.

The Obstetricians and Gynaecologists information does not include data about house officers as they are not specialists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

In response to question seven, the maternity services spend/cost includes the salaries of the doctors, including house officers, midwives, registered nurses, care associates and other staff whom are essential to run the service. It also includes outsourced services, clinical supplies and other operating expenditures.

In response to question nine, HBDHB does not hold information about the number of code reds going back to 2010 therefore under section 18 (g) of the Official Information Act relating to information not held decline to provide a response to this portion of your request. The DHB has this information as of 2016 calendar year and can provide the following information in Table 3 about the number of times the maternity inpatient wards have indicated a red status.

**Table 3**

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	1	11	14	1	28

In response to question ten, Hawke's Bay DHB does not have a "code black" system. Therefore under section 18 (g) of the Official Information Act relating to information not held decline to provide a response to this portion of your request.

In response to question eleven, the average number of beds between 2010 and 2013 were 21 ante/postnatal beds, 12 labour and birthing suite beds, three beds at Napier Maternity and three beds at Wairoa maternity.

From 2014 to mid 2016 there were 19 ante/post natal beds plus A2 ward could be used if necessary, 12 beds in labour and birthing suites and three beds in Wairoa.

Waioha was then built at HB hospital as a primary birthing centre alongside the specialist maternity facility Ata Rangi and from July 2016 to present day there are 12 labour and birthing suite beds, 13 ante/post natal beds, seven beds in Waioha and three beds in Wairoa.

In response to question twelve, there have been no maternal deaths during or shortly before/after labour (within 7 days) since 2010, therefore under section 18 (g) of the Official Information Act relating to information not held decline to provide a response to this portion of your request.

In response to question thirteen, this would require a manual search of individual patient files to obtain the information requested over the last eleven years. Therefore, this portion of your request is declined under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act relating to substantial collation or research.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Ash', written in a cursive style.

Chris Ash  
Chief Operating Officer

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