

# Corporate Services



3 March 2022

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2022014**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 15 February 2022 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- 1. What was your board's policy regarding media access to your DHB premises to interview staff and patients, and take photographs and video before any COVID-19 restrictions were introduced?***
- 2. Were any new conditions for media access introduced as a result of COVID-19?***
- 3. If so, how was this decision made and why?***
- 4. What were the new conditions and how did they affect access at different alert levels and under the current traffic light system?***
- 5. What is your board's intentions for the future regards media access under COVID-19?***
- 6. Do you feel your media access rules are consistent with the media's responsibilities to report accurately and promptly on issues, and also with the right of patients and staff to interact freely with the media if they consent?***

Hawke's Bay DHB works to give media access to clinicians and executive staff members whenever it is requested.

Before COVID-19 restrictions were introduced it was the policy of the DHB that the news media and media photographers/camera crews will not have access to staff, patients, or facilities without the permission of the Executive Director of Communications or delegate, as well as the patient and/or staff involved.

Where photographs are taken, the permissions of those photographed, staff or patient, must be sought and recorded as per the HBDHB Photograph Policy.

During level four lockdown in 2020 media, like visitors, were not able to come on-site for their own safety. HBDHB did set up media stand-up during this time with media to meet demand and provide information on the response as well as phone interviews as requested and when staff were available.

The main constraint to granting access is availability due to clinical or management responsibilities taking priority during the pandemic.

Under the current red traffic light setting level media can still request interviews with clinicians and other staff. Wherever possible HBDHB will work to make that happen.

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**  
Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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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



Anna Kirk

Executive Director – Communications

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