Corporate Services

20 April 2022

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Dear ███

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2022033

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 22 February 2022 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

"Please indicate what is your exact procedure for determining that hospital admissions in this current time are in fact directly due to covid.
Ie: are u testing people who are admitting themselves for something non respiratory related and if they test positive after admission for sars cov 2 are you listing it as a covid admission regardless
Ie: people who are admitted for something respiratory related that is later diagnosed as not sars cov 2, are you indicating them as covid hospitalizations if they return a positive test during admission."

Hawke's Bay DHB tests all hospital admissions for COVID-19. Those who test positive for COVID-19 are then admitted to a dedicated COVID ward. Inpatients with COVID (whether arriving with COVID or testing positive once in our care) are included in COVID-related hospilisation statistics released by the Ministry of Health. This includes any COVID-related deaths.

Routine surveillance testing of hospital inpatients was introduced in early March 2022 to detect asymptomatic cases. You can see the full media release here: http://www.ourhealthhb.nz/news-and-events/latest-news/hawkes-bay-hospital-mobilises-dedicated-covid-ward-as-cases-rise/

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

RHentschel

Rika Hentschel
Acting Chief Operating Officer

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