

17 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2022004

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 19 January 2022 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- 1. Since March 2020 have you had to reduce the number of beds you can offer for aged residential care?***
- 2. How many beds did you offer in March 2020, and how many do you offer now?***
- 3. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of aged residential care beds available?***
- 4. Have you had to reduce the number of general hospital beds available since March 2020?***
- 5. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of general beds available?***
- 6. How many general hospital beds were available in your catchment area in March 2020, and how many general hospital beds are available now?***

Hawke's Bay DHB is not a service provider for Aged residential care beds. Hawke's Bay DHB does carry out NASC (Needs Assessment Service Coordination) assessments and if an individual qualifies for aged residential care but cannot afford private care, they can apply to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) for financial assistance. MSD and HBDHB then fund this together with the patient who pays a portion of the cost of their care.

While HBDHB assesses and helps fund an individual for aged residential care, HBDHB does not provide beds and contracts this out to a third party provider. HBDHB does not hold the information regarding bed numbers available or "on offer" and whether the number of beds have been reduced. You will need to contact the facilities directly for that information. 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 regards to general hospital beds, Hawke's Bay DHB has 340 beds. HBDHB has not reduced the number of beds since March 2020 and has instead increased permanently resourced acute hospital beds at Hawke's Bay Hospital, up from 324 in March 2020. This increase came from the commissioning of the A2 ward in its entirety for inpatient care and the extra care spaces built in ICU.

Hawke's Bay DHB also has the capacity of additional beds when the hospital goes into flex capacity, with extra rooms on base wards, plus hospital overflow rooms and extra rooms in the Mental Health inpatient unit. The use of these beds in flex capacity means that occupancy can be above 100 percent at times they go over the occupancy of the planned beds.

Wairoa hospital is a GP led facility that has acute medical inpatient beds within the Hawke's Bay DHB catchment area and bed numbers have not reduced or increased since March 2020.

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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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: SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz*
oia@hbdhb.govt.nz