



15 November 2021



Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: OIA request – Information regarding refrigerated containers to be used for COVID-19 deaths**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 8 November 2021 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about any plans to use refrigerated containers in response to COVID-19 deaths.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

**Copies of any reports, documents, memoranda, correspondence, legal advice, aide memoires or emails, both internal and external, discussing using refrigerated containers to respond to COVID-19 deaths.**

Waitematā DHB has not produced any reports, documents, memoranda, correspondence, legal advice, aide memoires or emails, either internal or external, which discuss using refrigerated containers to respond to COVID-19 deaths as this is not a matter we have considered.

The metro Auckland DHBs meet daily to discuss and coordinate the management of COVID-19 in the region.

Current modelling and the positive trajectory of the vaccine rollout suggest that there is not a need for additional mortuary infrastructure. This is consistent with the question you asked of the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC).

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



**COVID-19 Executive Lead  
Waitematā District Health Board**