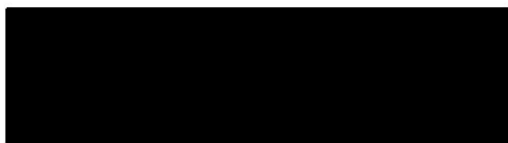


20 April 2022



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Costs of health workers solely working with COVID-19

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received as a partial transfer from the Ministry of Health on 23 March 2022, seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the following:

I am requesting the full costs from these different areas as a result of COVID-19 arriving in New Zealand. This request is made under the Official Information Act.

- 4. The full costs of all testing centres for COVID-19, including the road cone staff and the site payments etc.**
- 5. The full costs of health workers solely working with COVID-19, in labs or wards or anywhere else.**

Before responding to your remaining question, 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 more than 8,900 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.

Date range for your request

Before the Ministry of Health transferred your request, the DHBs' Technical Advisory Service (TAS) confirmed the date range for your request was from March 2020 to 13 March 2022.

Transfer of Question 4 to Auckland DHB

On 25 March, we transferred question 4 of your request to Auckland DHB, which is the agency that has oversight of the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC). The information to which this aspect of your request relates is not held by us but is held by the NRHCC.

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

The full costs of health workers solely working with COVID-19, in labs or wards or anywhere else.

It should be noted that the information provided below is for personnel costs that are attributable to COVID-19. However, there are very few staff who have been, or are, 'solely working with COVID-19'.

Personnel costs provided for "hospital staff" relate to additional roles or work due to the impacts of COVID-19, rather than staff working in a COVID-19-related only role.

For example, additional staff have been employed to stream patients in our hospitals' emergency departments. These staff have been employed due to the impacts of COVID-19 but their work involves aspects not solely related to COVID-19, in that they screen and/or treat all patients regardless of whether they are COVID-19-positive or not. The same is true for other clinical, support or management staff in this category – these are incremental (added on) COVID-19-related costs, rather than costs related to staff solely working with COVID-19.

In-line with the Northern Region DHBs' agreed approach to your request, we have provided full-month costs to 28 February 2022 as these figures are produced as full month-end costings and are not available for the part-month to 13 March 2022.

Waitematā DHB COVID-19 healthcare worker costs – 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2022	
Category	Total personnel costs - \$
Laboratory	905,539
Hospital staff (clinical, management, support)*	8,523,014
Northern Regional Health Coordination Centre	5,600,853
Vaccination programme	11,850,356
Managed isolation facilities and quarantine	1,110,772
COVID-19 wards	2,411,801

*Includes staffing costs for visitor screening and security.

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



**Executive Director Finance, People and Planning
Waitematā District Health Board**