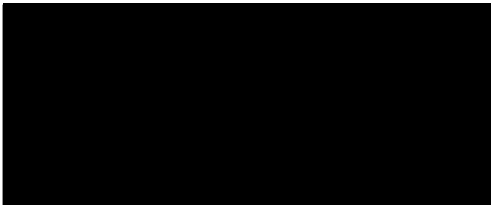




27 May 2019



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Maternity staffing

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 6 May 2019 seeking the following of Waitematā District Health Board (DHB):

- *“How many consultants/senior doctors are rostered on and physically present on your hospital maternity wards on Saturdays and Sundays and between 10pm and 8am during the week?”*
- *“If consultants/senior doctors are rostered on to work in the ward on the weekend, what times do their shifts start and end? (ie, is there someone there at all times?)”*
- *“What times are consultants/senior doctors rostered on until during the week? (ie, is there someone there at all times?)”*
- *“Why are/why aren't consultants/senior doctors present/not present on the ward at all times?”*
- *“Are senior doctors/consultants on call for help on the maternity ward during the weekend and between 10pm and 8am on weekdays?”*
- *“How quickly are any on call-doctors expected to be able to be at the hospital?”*
- *“If senior doctors/consultants are not on the ward at all times, who is available to provide care to women when they are not present? (midwives, junior doctors etc)”*

Waitematā DHB operates two maternity facilities – at North Shore Hospital there are 10 birthing, 36 postnatal and four assessment beds and at Waitakere Hospital there are eight birthing, 26 postnatal and two assessment beds. Both facilities admit women directly from the community 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

In a typical 12-month period, our maternity services will be involved in the birth of approximately 7,000 babies. Women with more-complex pregnancies are more likely to birth at North Shore Hospital due to the co-location of specialist clinical services, such as our intensive care and high-dependency units, should they be required.

How many consultants/senior doctors are rostered on and physically present on your hospital maternity wards on Saturdays and Sundays and between 10pm and 8am during the week?

At North Shore Hospital maternity facility, there is one consultant rostered on-call on Saturdays and Sundays. There is also a consultant rostered on-call between the hours of 2200hrs and 0800hrs during the week.

An appropriately qualified registrar is on-site at North Shore Hospital at these times, along with a house officer, and the on-call consultant can be on-site quickly if required. As per above, other specialist services are also located close by within North Shore Hospital and can be quickly accessed if they are needed in an emergency. At Waitakere Hospital, there is one consultant physically present on-site and a second rostered on-call.

If consultants/senior doctors are rostered on to work in the ward on the weekend, what times do their shifts start and end? (ie, is there someone there at all times?)

Both maternity facilities run a 24/7 medical roster. At Waitakere Hospital, the consultant is physically present/immediately available 24/7 during the weekend. At North Shore Hospital, there is a consultant rostered on-call 24/7 during the weekend.

What times are consultants/senior doctors rostered on until during the week? (ie, is there someone there at all times?)

During the week, at North Shore Hospital a consultant is physically present on site until 1800hrs. There is then a consultant rostered on-call until 0800hrs.

At Waitakere Hospital, there is a consultant present on-site/immediately available 24/7.

Why are/why aren't consultants/senior doctors present/not present on the ward at all times?

Consultants are not present on the maternity unit at North Shore Hospital at all times as there is a registrar on-site who is credentialed to undertake assessments and births independently.

As per above, consultants are rostered on-site at Waitakere Hospital. There are no junior medical staff rostered to work in the maternity service there.

Are senior doctors/consultants on-call for help on the maternity ward during the weekend and between 10pm and 8am on weekdays?

Yes - both the North Shore and Waitakere maternity facilities operate a 24/7 consultant roster. At North Shore, the consultant is available on-call to provide assistance to the registrar when required. At Waitakere, there is a second consultant on-call rostered to provide assistance.

How quickly are any on-call doctors expected to be able to be at the hospital?

The consultant on-call for North Shore is expected to attend the hospital within 30 minutes.

If senior doctors/consultants are not on the ward at all times, who is available to provide care to women when they are not present? (midwives, junior doctors etc)

At North Shore, there are midwives and junior doctors available to provide immediate care to women. The registrars rostered to work on-site are credentialed to complete urgent assessments, attend births and undertake caesarean sections independently.

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitematā DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's 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 feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cath', written in a cursive style.

Cath Cronin
Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board