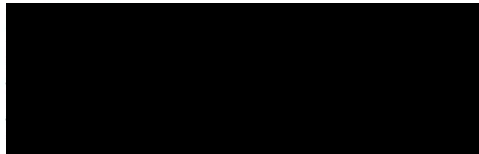




5 May 2021



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Staff numbers, terminations and redundancies and stock levels for infusion sets, medications, IV fluids etc.

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 6 April 2021 seeking information from Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) about staff numbers, terminations and redundancies and our stock levels for infusion sets, medications and IV fluids.

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

Waitemata 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.

It should be noted that Waitemata DHB is undergoing a period of expansion in order to meet the growing needs of our population.

Construction of a new hospital building is under way at the North Shore Hospital campus and will increase capacity in the region. It will include eight surgical theatres, four 30-bed inpatient wards on two floors and shelled space for a fifth ward providing 120-150 beds in total.

At Waitakere Hospital, a \$40 million funding package to build a new 30-bed inpatient ward has recently been announced.

Our Northern region forensic mental health service at the Mason Clinic in Point Chevalier has recently opened a new \$22 million unit and an additional multi-storey inpatient facility is expected to be tendered in 2021/2022.

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

1. Since the start of 2020, how many people have been made redundant at Waitematā DHB?

Fewer than three staff members have been made redundant since the start of 2020. Numbers lower than three have been withheld to protect the privacy of natural persons.

We have considered whether the public interest in making the exact number available outweighs the need to protect the individual staff members but have concluded that it does not. We are, therefore, withholding this information under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to seek a review is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

2. How many fixed-term contracts have been terminated?

One hundred and sixty two (162) fixed-term contracts, or 115.3 FTE, were completed in this timeframe. As fixed-term contracts end at an agreed completion date, this figure includes all fixed-term contracts which were completed from the start of 2020 to March 2021.

3. How many people have been employed as permanent staff?

From the start of 2020 to March 2021, 1250 new permanent staff members, or 1038.4 FTE, have been employed. The majority of these have been employed to fill existing roles in the organisation.

4. How many fixed-term contracts have been initiated?

From the start of 2020 to March 2021, 329 fixed-term contracts, or 260.5 FTE, were initiated. By their nature, fixed-term contracts are intended to employ people for a specific skill-set in relation to a specialist project that has a limited timeframe and we do not have an ongoing need for.

5. How are your supplies of smart infusions, infusion sets, medications, and IV fluids?

6. Are any of your supplies at critical levels? If so, what, and when will they be restocked?

7. Are you able to replenish your above mentioned supplies easily?

The Ministry of Health has provided a response to questions 5 to 7.

I trust that the information we have been able to provide 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



Director People and Culture
Waitematā District Health Board