



10 December 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Alcohol-related harm

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 9 November 2020 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about treatment for alcohol-related harm.

You requested the following information:

I am requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 regarding alcohol-related harm at Waitematā District Health Board.

1. Please provide a yearly breakdown of how many people were treated at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.

2. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the age groups of those treated at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.

3. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the ethnicity of those treated at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.

4. Please provide a yearly breakdown of how many people were admitted to Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.

5. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the age groups of those admitted to Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period).

6. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the ethnicity of those admitted at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.

7. Please provide a yearly breakdown of how many people died from alcohol-related harm at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period).

8. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the cost for each person who was treated at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related causes.

On 19 November, we received notification from the DHBs' Technical Advisory Services (TAS) that you had clarified the term "alcohol-related harm" as follows:

- 1. I'm referring to people coming in who have alcohol poisoning**
- 2. - those who have injured themselves with alcohol in their system**
- 3. - those who have been injured by others with alcohol in their system,**
- 4. - those who may be referred to the hospital from concerns around mental health issues relating to alcohol.**
- 5. - other health issues such as being admitted for diseases that could impact a patient's liver, heart, brain etc. relating to long term use of alcohol.**

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

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

Please see our response to your request below:

For the purposes of extracting the information you are seeking, we have used the following ICD (International Classification of Disease) codes which relate to toxic effects or poisoning of alcohol:

- F10.0 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, acute intoxication*
- F10.1 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, harmful use*
- F10.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, dependence syndrome*
- F10.3 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, withdrawal state*
- F10.4 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, withdrawal state with delirium*
- F10.5 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, psychotic disorder*
- F10.6 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, amnesic syndrome*
- F10.7 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, residual and late-onset psychotic disorder*
- F10.8 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, other mental and behavioural disorders*
- F10.9 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, unspecified mental and behavioural disorder*
- T51.0 Toxic effects or poisoning of Ethanol, Ethyl alcohol, Methylated spirits*
- T51.1 Toxic effects or poisoning of Methanol, methyl alcohol*
- T51.2 Toxic effects or poisoning of 2-propanol, Isopropyl alcohol*
- T51.3 Toxic effects or poisoning of Fusel oil, Alcohol: Amyl, Butyl, Propyl*
- T51.8 Toxic effects or poisoning of Other Alcohols*
- T51.9 Toxic effects or poisoning of Alcohol, unspecified*
- X45 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol*
- X65 Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol*
- X85 Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances*

- 1. Please provide a yearly breakdown of how many people were treated at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.**

2. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the age groups of those treated at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.

Number of people by age group treated for alcohol-related harm 2015-2020						
Age group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
0-14 yrs	13	9	9	10	23	9
15-19 yrs	132	160	124	123	146	115
20-24 yrs	196	165	182	180	172	167
25-29 yrs	111	133	157	157	147	142
30-34 yrs	88	92	98	130	139	139
35-39 yrs	108	119	134	148	149	156
40-44 yrs	142	169	122	153	147	124
45-49 yrs	153	179	178	212	221	213
50-54 yrs	157	201	182	177	214	161
55-59 yrs	173	164	192	222	167	164
60-64 yrs	132	144	118	116	103	112
65+ yrs	289	244	287	319	364	313
Total	1,694	1,779	1,783	1,947	1,992	1,815

3. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the ethnicity of those treated at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.

Number of people by ethnicity treated for alcohol-related harm 2015-2020						
Ethnicity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Asian	85	103	91	126	173	134
European	1,299	1,331	1,329	1,428	1,476	1,318
Maori	213	233	244	274	235	245
Other	33	39	33	32	36	36
Pacific Peoples	64	73	86	87	72	82

4. Please provide a yearly breakdown of how many people were admitted to Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.

Number of people admitted to hospital for alcohol-related harm 2015-2020						
Alcohol-related	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Admitted to ward	526	542	582	668	691	660

5. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the age groups of those admitted to Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.

Number of people by age admitted to hospital for alcohol-related harm 2015-2020						
Age group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
0-14 yrs	2	-	-	-	-	2
15-19 yrs	1	9	5	11	3	8
20-24 yrs	24	9	21	14	25	17
25-29 yrs	10	8	22	25	25	20

30-34 yrs	10	25	27	33	20	31
35-39 yrs	19	23	30	49	44	47
40-44 yrs	29	51	41	51	60	49
45-49 yrs	44	52	48	57	63	72
50-54 yrs	53	56	56	58	76	51
55-59 yrs	78	86	85	104	87	75
60-64 yrs	65	67	57	60	48	64
65+ yrs	191	156	190	206	240	224
Total	526	542	582	668	691	660

6. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the ethnicity of those admitted at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related harm.

Number of people by ethnicity admitted to hospital for alcohol-related harm 2015-2020						
Age group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Asian	24	31	16	45	44	46
European	418	424	475	512	557	526
Maori	59	69	58	79	59	64
Other	5	6	8	10	9	6
Pacific Peoples	20	12	25	22	22	18
Total	526	542	582	668	691	660

7. Please provide a yearly breakdown of how many people died from alcohol-related harm at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period).

Number of deaths attributed to alcohol-related harm 2015-2020						
Alcohol-related	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Deaths	11	12	14	14	16	13

8. Please provide a yearly breakdown of the cost for each person who was treated at Waitematā District Health Board from 2015 to 2020 to date (including through the COVID-19 period) for alcohol-related causes.

We have interpreted your question as relating to costs of the total number of people treated each year from 2015 to 2020 to date for alcohol-related harm:

Costs of treating patients for alcohol-related harm		
Calendar year	Total discharges	Actual cost
2015	1,694	\$7,130,349
2016	1,779	\$7,267,975
2017	1,783	\$7,139,673
2018	1,947	\$7,476,640
2019	1,992	\$9,176,099
2020	1,815	\$8,971,786

With regards to your clarification issued by TAS, we are unable to provide information on other health issues or diseases relating to long-term use of alcohol as this would require the review of patients' individual clinical records.

Due to the sensitivity of the information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 due to substantial collation and research.

In addition, we are refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 for data on people who have injured themselves with alcohol in their system or people who have been injured by others with alcohol in their system, as we do not record this information.

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mark Shepherd
Director Provider Healthcare Services
Waitematā District Health Board