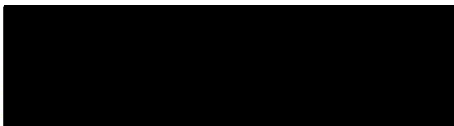


12 November 2020



Dear 

**Re: OIA request – Hospital midwifery services**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 27 October 2020 seeking information from Waitematā DHB about the number of women who book with a hospital-based midwifery service.

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.

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

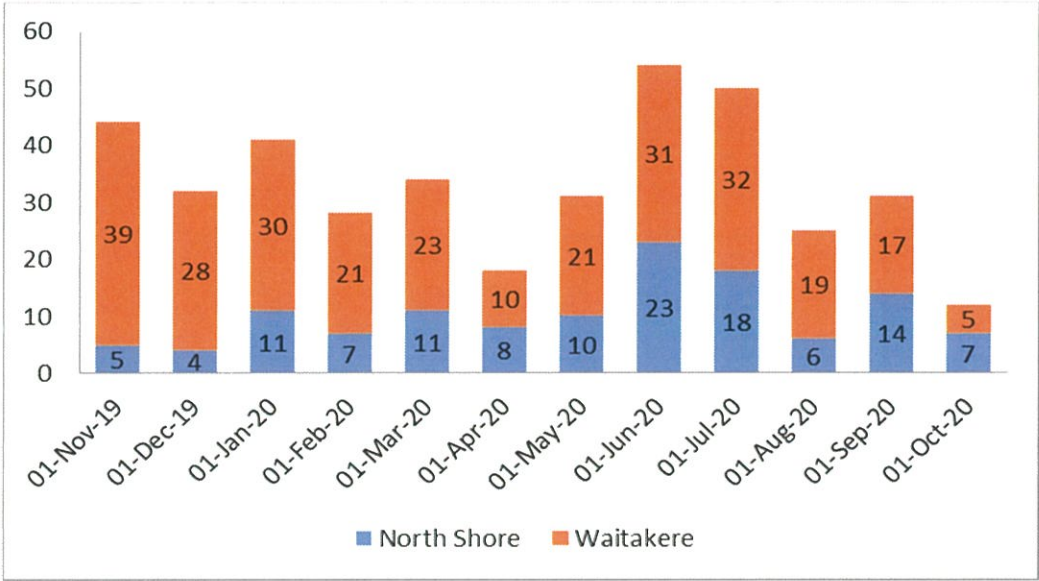
**The number of women who book with a hospital-based midwifery service at Waitematā DHB by month from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020.**

**If there is a breakdown of the above figure to show how many women were so booked because they couldn't find or book with a community midwife, can this please be provided.**

The total number of women who booked with a DHB-employed, hospital-based midwife was 400 during this time period.

The following chart details the information by month:

**Figure 1** Women booked with a DHB-employed, hospital-based midwife by month and by hospital site



To put these figures into context, there were 6,543 births North Shore and Waitakere hospitals from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020, with the number of hospital-based midwifery bookings making up around 6% of hospital births.

Data is not collected on why a woman books with a hospital-based midwife rather than a self-employed, community-based midwife as their lead maternity carer (LMC).

There are a number of factors that affect choice of LMC including:

- Having previously had a hospital-based midwife as LMC.
- Having a complex medical, social or obstetric problem that requires a higher level of multidisciplinary care.
- Not being able to find a self-employed, community-based LMC midwife. However, we offer a matching service for women to link them up with midwives in their community.

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



**Mark Shepherd**  
**Director Provider Healthcare Services**  
**Waitematā District Health Board**