

28 April 2021



Dear 

**Re: OIA request – Utilisation rates of oncology beds, projected costs for delivery of services and projected impact of wage and service negotiations**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 26 March 2021 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about utilisation rates of oncology beds, projected costs for delivery of services and projected impact of wage and service negotiations.

Before responding to your specific questions, 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 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.

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

**1. What is the average utilisation rate, in day-stay oncology beds, for day-stay administered cancer medicines?**

Auckland DHB manages the Regional Cancer and Blood Service, providing care for people who reside in the Northern Region.

The medical oncology chair utilisation rate relating to Waitematā-domiciled patients has been provided by Auckland DHB in a separate response to your request.

Waitematā DHB does provide some day-stay care to our haematology patients. However, the information requested is not held in a central database.

Plans are being developed to introduce a new system that would allow data between fixed dates to be retrospectively collated but this is not yet in place.

Currently, appointments are made using Microsoft Outlook calendar. To provide the information you seek, we would need to identify each appointment for haematology day-stay care, collate the appointment data and then calculate the average utilisation rate. We calculate it would take approximately seven to eight working days to do this work. This would take frontline staff away from their regular duties and prejudice our ability to provide core services.

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

- 2. For the next financial year, from an operating pressure perspective, what is the projected increase in the cost of delivering services due to general price inflation expressed as a percentage?**
- 3. For the upcoming financial year, from an operating pressure perspective, what is the projected impact of wage and service provider negotiations, expressed as a percentage.**

Waitematā DHB does not have an approved budget for the next financial year and, as such, we are unable to determine operating or other costs, including the projected impact of wage and service provider negotiations, that would be involved in the provision of this service.

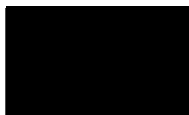
Therefore, we are refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(g)(i) and (ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information requested is not held by us and we have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by another department or is more closely connected with another department.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

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**