



17 December 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Cost of COVID-19 checkpoints at hospitals & facilities

Thank you for your Official Information Act request transferred to Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on 25 November seeking information on the cost of COVID-19 checkpoints at our hospitals and medical facilities.

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:

The total cost of every set-up including contractors, security, workforce, hireage, purchases, administration, equipment, computer connections, stationery and any other expense associated with these checkpoints at all hospitals and any other facilities across the nation.

The 'checkpoint' costs in our DHB's case relate to triaging stations at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals and some other Waitematā DHB facilities. Costs we have been able to identify relating to triaging visitors since the COVID-19 Delta lockdown on 17 August 2021, amount to around \$85,581 + GST.

Please note that, other than some additional security, staff involved in triaging visitors were redeployed from existing positions in our DHB, as was most of the computer and other equipment used.

Triaging visitors to our hospitals and facilities has helped safeguard staff, contractors, other visitors and patients from exposure to COVID-19. This has resulted in savings of up to \$160,000

per fortnight by reducing the need to stand-down clinical staff if a potential exposure event was to occur.

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



Executive Director Finance, People and Planning
Waitematā District Health Board