
15 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Bed availability in aged residential care and general hospitals

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received 19 January 2022, seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the number of beds and any reduction in bed numbers in aged residential care (ARC) facilities and general hospitals.

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

- 1. Since March 2020 have you had to reduce the number of beds you can offer for aged residential care?**
- 2. How many beds did you offer in March 2020, and how many do you offer now?**
- 3. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of aged residential care beds available?**

We have provided a combined response for questions 1 to 3.

Aged residential care (ARC) facilities are private entities that are certified by the Ministry of Health and then contracted by the DHB to provide ARC services.

The DHB does not contract for a set number of beds and has very limited ability to change or reduce the number of beds available within the DHB catchment area.

A quarterly bed survey is managed by the Technical Advisory Service (TAS), a public sector agency which provides a range of strategic, advisory and programme management services to the health sector. Bed and resident numbers for each ARC facility are collected as at 10pm on the last day of the March, June, September and December quarters. While DHBs have limited ability to manage the ARC bed supply, the survey allows us to monitor the number of beds and the occupancy rates in our district.

Using the quarterly bed survey, the number of ARC beds available within the Waitematā DHB catchment area on 31 March 2020 was 4069 and the number available on 30 September 2021 (most recent quarterly bed survey) was 4169; an increase of 100 beds.

There was no reduction in the total number of ARC beds available within the Waitematā DHB catchment area.

4. Have you had to reduce the number of general hospital beds available since March 2020?

No. Waitematā DHB has the ability to open and close beds, flexing the number of open beds as required based on demand.

5. If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of general beds available?

Not applicable.

6. How many general hospital beds were available in your catchment area in March 2020, and how many general hospital beds are available now?

Table 1: Waitematā DHB general hospital beds in 2020 and 2022

Hospital	Open beds March 2020	Open beds January 2022
North Shore Hospital	377	408
Waitakere Hospital	139	165

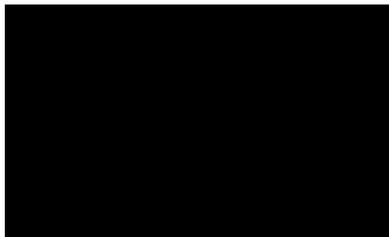
Please note: the figures above are general hospital ward beds only and do not include other areas such as maternity, ICU/HDU, ED/ADU, mental health, etc.

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 Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board**