



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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28 May 2019

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9306

I refer to your email dated 6 May 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding Maternity Ward staffing.

- 1. How many consultants/senior doctors are rostered on and physically present on your hospital maternity wards on Saturdays and Sundays and between 10pm and 8am during the week?**

A consultant/senior doctor is rostered to be on call at all times. However the consultant /senior doctor physically is not required to be present on our hospital maternity wards on Saturdays and Sundays or between 10pm and 8am during the week

- 2. If consultants/senior doctors are rostered on to work in the ward on the weekend, what times do their shifts start and end? (ie, is there someone there at all times?)**

See answer Question 1.

- 3. What times are consultants/senior doctors rostered on until during the week? (ie, is there someone there at all times?)**

Consultants will be on site whenever the maternity unit workload requires it.

Consultants are rostered to be present from 8am to 5pm during the week and outside these times there is an on call team including an Obstetrician, Anaesthetist, and Paediatrician or Paediatrically trained Rural Hospital Medicine Specialist

- 4. Why are/why aren't consultants/senior doctors present/not present on the ward at all times?**

The maternity unit workload does not require a consultant to be present at all times

The Registered Midwives on our maternity unit at Grey Base (390 births per annum) and the junior doctors are sufficiently skilled to identify and alert the Consultants who are on call when an acute matter arises and to manage clinical situations beyond their scope. We provide considerable multidisciplinary education, formal and informal, within maternity and on the West Coast. Consultant support is always available via telephone and when physical attendance is needed consultants can be on site within 20 minutes.

5. Are senior doctors/consultants on call for help on the maternity ward during the weekend and between 10pm and 8am on weekdays?

An Obstetrician, Anaesthetist, Emergency Department Specialist and a Paediatrician or Paediatrically trained Rural Hospital Medicine Specialist are all available and on call during the weekend and between 10pm and 8am on weekdays.

6. How quickly are any on call-doctors expected to be able to be at the hospital?

On call doctors are expected to be present at the hospital within 20 minutes.

7. If senior doctors/consultants are not on the ward at all times, who is available to provide care to women when they are not present? (midwives, junior doctors etc)

Registered midwives, junior doctors and nursing staff are onsite at all times and are sufficiently skilled to manage routine work and acute matters and for matters beyond their scope the consultant support is always available via telephone and physical attendance of the consultant can be achieved within 20 minutes.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support