



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth

Telephone 03 768 0499
Fax 03 768 2791

4 August 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request WCDHB 9446

I refer to your email dated 21 June 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding the number of patients in psychiatric hospitals 1990 to 2010. I note your request was clarified on 7 July 2020. Specifically:

- ***The number of persons confined 'living' in Seaview Asylum in the years 1990 to 2010. Either as at 31 December of the year or annual average. Please include the proportion of people confined per 100,000 population (rate of confinement).***

Your clarification of your original Official Information Request notes that you are seeking data on people "living" at Seaview Hospital in regard to your research into deinstitutionalisation of mental health hospitals.

Accordingly, we have interpreted this to relating to all patients in care – including acute, intensive care, sub-acute, and psychiatric rehabilitation care at Seaview (short-term care admissions) as well as people in long-term psychiatric, psychogeriatric and intellectual disability care residents at the facility.

The data in **Table 1** (overleaf) shows the number of people in care in December of each year from 1990 up until the time Seaview Hospital was finally closed in November 2007:

We are not able to provide you with a "proportion of people confined per 100,000 people" rate, as there were people admitted to Seaview Hospital for long-stay psychiatric, psychogeriatric and intellectual disability care from various areas of both the South and North Islands over time – not just from among the usually resident West Coast population.

We therefore decline to provide this information pursuant to Section 18(g) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *"...the information requested is not held"*.

For your specific research on deinstitutionalisation of mental health hospitals your honours degree, you might therefore be best to aggregate the information above with that you receive back for facilities at other DHBs in order to determine an overall rate of people in long term mental health care institutions for the country overall. We would respectfully direct you to the Statistics NZ website to assist you with this aspect of your research and reflect population changes over time.

Table 1: Occupancy of people in care in Seaview Hospital in December of each year from 1990

	Acute and Sub-acute mental health	Long Stay Psychiatric	Psychogeriatric Long Stay Disability	Intellectual Disability	Total Occupancy in December
1990	10	131		26	167
1991	14	118		22	154
1992	17	106		22	145
1993	20	76		23	118
1994	22	29	29	36	117
1995	16	34	19	33	102
1996	18	23	20	32	94
1997	21	23	11	30	84
1998	12	21	14	28	75
1999	8	17	17	17	59
2000	15	14	16	7	52
2001	0	16	18	5	39
2002	0	12	17	6	35
2003	0	9	18	4	31
2004	0	4	19	1	24
2005	0	3	20	1	24
2006	0	6	11	0	17
2007 *	0	1	15	0	16 *

* November 2007 (as at closing of Seaview Hospital)

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz; or Freephone 0800 802 602.

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