



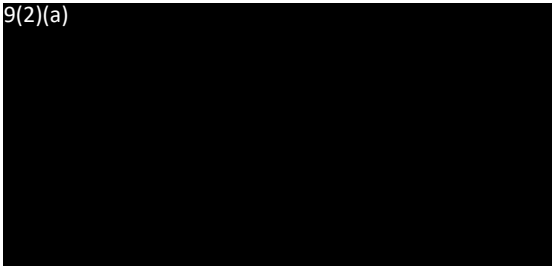
*West Coast District Health Board*  
*Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini*

Corporate Office  
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400  
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14 March 2022

9(2)(a)



**RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9636a**

I refer to your email dated 9 February 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB, being a follow up request to our response to Official Information Act request WCDHB 9636. Specifically:

**Before Christmas I did an OIA request around correspondence with the nurses' union.**

- **Can I now repeat that please for late November, when the last OIA ended, through to now (9/2/2022)?**

Please refer to **Appendix 1** (attached). **Note:** we have redacted information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act i.e. "....to protect the privacy of natural persons, including those deceased".

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](http://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

Ralph La Salle  
Senior Manager, OIAs  
Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB

**From:** Philip Wheble  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 January 2022 4:34 PM  
**To:** 9(2)(a); Deborah Wright; 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Diane Longstaff; Denise Burt; 9(2)(a); Becky Hickmott; Sarah Gilseman  
**Subject:** RE: Staffing levels in Foote Ward [EXTERNAL SENDER]

Thanks for your email 9(2)(a). There was an email from Deb a little while ago but we are meant to be organising a meeting so I will follow up with Sarah, Becky and Deb. Agree given Omicron I think it will be important to discuss this.

Philip Wheble  
 General Manager  
 West Coast District Health Board

**Manaakitanga** – showing respect, valuing others | **Kōrero Pono** – integrity, be honest | **Tika** – fairness, accountability

**From:** 9(2)(a)@nzno.org.nz  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 January 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** Deborah Wright <deborah.wright@wcdhb.health.nz>; 9(2)(a)@wcdhb.health.nz  
**Cc:** Diane Longstaff <diane.longstaff@wcdhb.health.nz>; Denise Burt <denise.burt@wcdhb.health.nz>; Philip Wheble <philip.wheble@wcdhb.health.nz>; 9(2)(a)@nzno.org.nz  
**Subject:** RE: Staffing levels in Foote Ward [EXTERNAL SENDER]

Kia ora koutou,

I am writing again as I have not received a response to my last email. If I have missed an email please accept my apologies I am still working through a backlog from my time on leave.

NZNO is growing increasingly concerned about staffing levels in Foote Ward. We are aware that a decision has been made to reduce the number of staff on the roster due to the staffing shortage. The roster is resembling the Life Preserving Services Roster for the 2021 strike action. In fact, factoring on call staff, there was actually additional resources during the LPS period than what is currently being rostered.

In light of that NZNO requests a meeting to discuss the expectations of staff. With reduced staffing numbers there will need to be a subsequent reduction in services or activities or bed numbers.

This needs to be addressed with some urgency with the forecast arrival of Omicron in the community within the next 4 – 6 weeks and the impact this will have on health services and also on staff absence.

We await your availability for a meeting early next week.

Kind regards

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)@nzno.org.nz | 0800 28 38 48 | [www.nzno.org.nz](http://www.nzno.org.nz)  
 New Zealand Nurses Organisation | PO Box 4102 | Christchurch 8140

**From:** 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 18 January 2022 9:31 am  
**To:** Deborah Wright <[deborah.wright@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:deborah.wright@wcdhb.health.nz)>; 9(2)(a) <[9\(2\)\(a\)@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:9(2)(a)@wcdhb.health.nz)>  
**Cc:** Diane Longstaff <[diane.longstaff@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:diane.longstaff@wcdhb.health.nz)>; Denise Burt <[denise.burt@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:denise.burt@wcdhb.health.nz)>; Philip Wheble <[philip.wheble@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:philip.wheble@wcdhb.health.nz)>; 9(2)(a) <[9\(2\)\(a\)@nzno.org.nz](mailto:9(2)(a)@nzno.org.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Staffing levels in Foote Ward

Kia ora koutou,

I have included 9(2)(a) in this email so that 9(2) is aware of what is occurring in Foote Ward.

It is concerning the hearing the issues that 9(2) has raised. And NZNO agrees this is something we need to meet about as soon as possible.

Please advise of availability over the next few days – ensuring that Foote Ward delegates/representatives will be able to attend the meeting.

Thanks

9(2)(a)

**From:** Deborah Wright <[deborah.wright@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:deborah.wright@wcdhb.health.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 January 2022 11:31 am  
**To:** 9(2)(a) <[9\(2\)\(a\)@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:9(2)(a)@wcdhb.health.nz)>  
**Cc:** Diane Longstaff <[diane.longstaff@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:diane.longstaff@wcdhb.health.nz)>; Denise Burt <[denise.burt@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:denise.burt@wcdhb.health.nz)>; 9(2)(a) <[9\(2\)\(a\)@nzno.org.nz](mailto:9(2)(a)@nzno.org.nz)>; Philip Wheble <[philip.wheble@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:philip.wheble@wcdhb.health.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Staffing levels in Foote Ward

Hello 9(2)

Highlighting these concerns is appreciated.

Clearly 12 hour shifts is not the preferred option by any party and we certainly appreciate this in the interim as a very short term option.

We will look at setting a meeting for early next week and it will be inclusive of members of the WCDHB Nursing Leadership team.

I will schedule the meeting through 9(2)(a) who will work with you as the NZNO delegate.

Nga mihi  
Deb

**Deborah Wright**  
Manager Northern Region

*Ehara taku i toa takitahi engari, he toa takitini.*  
*My strength, is not the strength of one, it is the strength of many*



Free online mental wellbeing resources to help with your mental wellbeing  
[Getting Through Together](#) ♦ [Sparklers at Home](#) ♦ [Mentemia](#) ♦ [Melon](#) ♦ [Staying on Track](#)

**Ministry of Health Information**

The latest health updates, information and advice about COVID-19 are available on the [Ministry of Health website](#)

**From:** 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Sunday, 9 January 2022 10:56 PM

**To:** Deborah Wright <[deborah.wright@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:deborah.wright@wcdhb.health.nz)>

**Cc:** Diane Longstaff <[diane.longstaff@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:diane.longstaff@wcdhb.health.nz)>; Denise Burt <[denise.burt@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:denise.burt@wcdhb.health.nz)>; 9(2)(a) <[9\(2\)\(a\)@nzno.org.nz](mailto:9(2)(a)@nzno.org.nz)>; Philip Wheble <[philip.wheble@wcdhb.health.nz](mailto:philip.wheble@wcdhb.health.nz)>

**Subject:** Staffing levels in Foote Ward

Hi Deb et al,

The Foote Ward roster in the near future is becoming unsafe in levels of staff and in skill mix levels. As a NZNO representative delegate, myself and other available delegates would like to have a meeting and discussion with you around safety of both staff and patients and see if some acceptable resolutions can be reached.

As you may or may not be aware 9(2)(a) has urgently returned to 9(2)(a) and is booked to come back in the second week of February. There is no guarantee that this will happen with MIQ being a lottery of chance. This has also caused immediate pressure on the roster which needs to be addressed.

Due to need and the flexibility of the great staff who man Foote ward the next two weeks have a senior nurse on each shift. Some are working 12 hour shifts to achieve this and we have also reached out over the DHB. Numbers of staff per shift are not covered to our agreed level when some days two shifts are covered by one nurse working 4 hours of each.

The following roster is when we have a real problem. We have multiple shifts in which there is not a senior nurse available. This is after reaching out and utilizing casual staff available. To add to this there is inadequate numbers of staff in general to fill the roster numbers. Staff have been working consistently above their FTE and have felt pressured to change shifts to help. They are tired and know that this is not sustainable. The upcoming roster is unsafe for both staff and patients and staff and needs to be urgently addressed.

I look forward to hearing from you and we all hope to be part of a solution that serves our community whilst maintaining safety and sustainability.

Kind regards

9(2)(a)

NZNO delegate

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