



# *West Coast District Health Board*

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## *Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini*

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8 March 2022

9(2)(a)

### **RE Official information request WCDHB 9660**

I refer to your email dated 31 January 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

***This pertains to West Coast DHB and the number of days spent in specific codes over the past year. Specifically, I'm interested in days spent in Code Red (where a hospital is considered "extremely overloaded") and Code Black (where capacity issues are considered critical.)***

- 1. How many days, if any, did hospitals in West Coast DHB spend in Code Red from January 01 2021 – December 31 – 2021.***
- 2. How many days, if any, did hospitals in West Coast DHB spend in Code Black from January 01 2021 – December 31 2021.***

### **Response**

We do not operate a "Code Red" or "Code Black" system at West Coast DHB. So consequently, have no such or similar data in this regard. We manage our workload with positive and negative variance and adjust based on patient acuity as needed. In measuring critical capacity we do not have a specific tool; however to determine staffing requirements we use TrendCare to determine hours of care required and nursing resource available. Alongside this we have direct communication with the management team, and on a shift by shift basis we look at bed utilisation and trends, as we reach limited bed availability we begin to implement the escalation plan.

While individual wards may reach and exceed resourced-bed of capacity over 95% for the acuity of admitted patients, there have been very few times when Te Nikau Grey Hospital as a whole has reached full capacity over 95% in all of our main medical and surgical beds at the same time (and either patients not able to be moved between wards, or staff on duty assisting to cover those wards with individual staffing shortfalls). During the period 1 January to 31 December 2021, there were five occasions where this overall occupancy was above 95%, with peak at 97% occupancy as at midnight bed census. There were 18 occasions when bed occupancy for these beds ranged between 90% - 95% occupancy over the period.

The maternity beds have been excluded from this analysis due to the nature of the service and the particular way this ward area is staffed. Dedicated DHB employed midwives and Lead Maternity Carers provide care according to planned and expected births.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RLS', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends to the right.

Ralph La Salle  
**Senior Team Leader OIAs**  
**Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB**