



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth 7840

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19 April 2022

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9679

I refer to your email dated 21 February 2022 to the Ministry of Health which they transferred to us on the 22 March 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

The dates for the period of the request are March 2020 to 21 Feb 2022:

1. Covid hospitalisation directly related to covid and covid only.

There have been three hospitalisations directly related to Covid to West Coast DHB hospitals during the period from 1 March 2020 to 21 February 2021. Two cases were in 2020; the third case was in 2022.

Given that there are so very few cases, we are declining to detail information on a week-by-week basis as you have additionally requested under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act, i.e. “...to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.” We have considered whether the public interest in releasing the information outweighs the need to protect the privacy of individual patients and have determined that it does not. Disclosing the exact numbers on a week-by-week basis creates the risk that individuals will be identifiable. The general expectation that medical records will be kept confidential means that any patients concerned are entitled to rely on the DHB not to create the risk that they will be identified.

2. Covid hospitalisation where patient was admitted for another reason and covid was detected after arriving at the hospital.

There have been no hospitalisations to West Coast DHB hospitals where patients were admitted for another reason and covid was detected after arriving at the hospital during the period from 1 March 2020 to 21 February 2021.

3. ICU and HDU beds used for covid only infections.

Nil. West Coast DHB does not operate an Intensive Care Unit such as operated by tertiary level care centres. West Coast DHB operates four Critical Care level (CCU) beds at Te Nikau Grey Hospital in Greymouth. None have been used for covid-only infections. Bed allocation is based on demand.

4. ICU and HDU beds used for non-covid conditions where a covid test after arriving at the hospital showed infection.

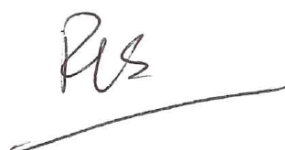
Nil. As identified in the answer to question 2, there have been no such patient admissions to any of our hospital beds during the period from 1 March 2020 to 21 February 2021. Bed allocation in both our CCU and general hospital beds is based on demand.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rls', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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