

2 December 2021



Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information received 20 October 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by clarification 29 October 2021 and the necessary extension of time 26 November 2021, where you seek the following information:

1. Data on the number of caesarean sections conducted at the DHB, since 2010, by year

NMH response:

TABLE ONE

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021ytd
Planned	199	231	212	228	206	221	189	196	211	210	191	156
Emergency	252	200	195	215	181	175	226	220	208	229	225	213

2. Data on the number of episiotomies conducted at the DHB since 2010, broken down by year

NMH response:

TABLE TWO

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021ytd
153	132	98	111	107	118	112	120	130	149	132	110

3. Data on the number of epidurals conducted at the DHB since 2010, broken down by year

NMH response:

TABLE THREE

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021ytd
468	429	352	393	353	334	393	325	421	404	406	335

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

4. Data on the number of births at DHB facilities, broken down by year, since 2010

NMH response:

TABLE FOUR

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021ytd
1,562	1,559	1,390	1,441	1,298	1,308	1,436	1,347	1,421	1,380	1,348	1,128

5. Data on the average number of FTE core midwifery positions (not community midwives) employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2010

NMH response:

TABLE FIVE

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
26.16	26.16	26.5	28.1	30.28	31.86	31.46	31.33	30.84	32.17	36.02	37.1

6. Data on the average number of FTE community midwifery positions employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2010

NMH response:

TABLE SIX

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
13.39	13.39	5.03	3.01	4.02	4.03	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	9	8

7. Data on spending/cost of maternity services per year, broken down by year since 2010 (not including building maintenance and upgrades, just staffing and costs of running the services)

NMH response: Please see Table Seven by Financial Year (1 July to 30 June) since 2010/11.

TABLE SEVEN

FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
4,015,384	3,606,782	3,674,744	3,490,751	3,634,565	3,681,414	3,874,890	4,131,620	3,856,525	4,304,522	4,698,261	5,559,480

8. Data on the average number of FTE obstetrician positions/ average hours worked by obstetricians employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2010

On 29 October 2021, you withdrew this point.

9. Data on the number of code reds that have occurred at the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2010

NMH response: We did not have a “Code Red” alert system in place so we can advise that this did not occur during the specified timeframe. Each services is responsible for managing increases in capacity and a clear escalation pathway is followed to ensure an early response during periods of fluctuating demand.

10. Data on the number of code blacks that have occurred at the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2010

NMH response: We did not have a “Code Black” alert system in place so we can advise that this did not occur during the specified timeframe. Each services is responsible for managing increases in capacity and a clear escalation pathway is followed to ensure an early response during periods of fluctuating demand.

11. Data on the average number of beds within the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2010

NMH response: Please see Table Eight for Nelson Hospital and Table Nine for Wairau Hospital.

TABLE EIGHT

Nelson	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Delivery	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Post nata	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

TABLE NINE

Wairau	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Delivery	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Post nata	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

12. Data on maternal deaths during or shortly before/after labour (within 7 days), broken down by year since 2010

NMH response: Since 2010, there have been <3 maternal deaths. The exact number is withheld under Section 9(2)(a) ‘to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons’. In the circumstances, the withholding of that information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

13. Data on deaths of babies during or shortly before/after birth (within 7 days), broken down by year since 2010

NMH response:

TABLE TEN

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021ytd
15	7	6	13	12	15	5	18	13	13	9	10

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz I trust this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public’s understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely

Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive