

6 May 2020

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Dear [REDACTED]

### Response to a request for official information

Thank you for your request for official information received 4 December 2019 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, followed by the necessary extension of time 23 January 2020 and notice of decision 21 February 2020, where you seek information on the historic track of coal burning.

- 1. The volume of coal burnt at the hospital over each of the last ten years at both Wairau and Nelson Hospitals.*

#### NMH response

The volume of coal utilised since 2012 is shown in Table 1 below. Please note that the coal is measured on the quantity of tonnes delivered. NMH does not have readily retrievable records on coal utilisation prior to 2012.

**TABLE 1 Tonnes**

Calendar Year	Nelson	Wairau
2012	1,455	1,028
2013	1,406	968
2014	1,338	986
2015	1,280	1,060
2016	1,377	1,019
2017	1,693	1,038
2018	1,259	923
2019	1,056	809

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<sup>1</sup> Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

**2. The date of commissioning of the landfill gas boiler at Nelson Hospital and how much it has offset the burning of coal.**

NMH response

The landfill gas boiler was commissioned during the 2005/06 financial year. As noted in the response to question 1 we do not have records of coal utilization dating prior to 2012 so it is not possible to determine the offset that it has provided.

**3. Any information on alternatives that have been explored and the scale of costs.**

NMH response

At the point of writing no alternatives have been explored for Nelson or Wairau Hospitals, other than the proposed trial of wood pellets at Nelson Hospital of which was recently reported to the Board.

The estimated cost of the wood pellets is circa \$100k higher (on an annualised basis) than we would expect for the equivalent energy generated by utilising coal however this cannot be confirmed until the trial has been completed. We will proceed with the trial once we have completed the analysis on what changes are required to the boiler infrastructure to enable the wood pellets to be used.

Further analysis on energy alternatives will be completed in the Detailed Business case phase of the planning for the Nelson Hospital redevelopment.

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](http://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](mailto:OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz). I trust that 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

Dr Peter Bramley  
**Chief Executive**