DHB Office
Braemar Campus

Private Bag 18
Nelson, New Zealand

24 March 2021

[redacted]
Via Email: [redacted]

Response to a request for official information

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your request for official information received 16 March 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)[1], followed by clarification 17 March 2021, where you seek the following information:

I am investigating a story about the rise in the use of nitrous oxide, also known as NOS, whippets, nangs and laughing gas. Can you please provide the following information under the Official Information Act:

1. ***The number of people per month over the last 12 months who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.***
2. ***The number of people per month over the last 12 months who have been admitted to hospital as a result of the use of nitrous oxide.***
3. ***The age of people per month over the last 12 months who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.***
4. ***The gender of the people per month over the last 12 months who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.***
5. ***The ethnicity of people per month over the last 12 months who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.***

CLARIFICATION: Could I please alter this request for the last 12 months to the last two years.

NMH response: We have had no presentations to our Emergency Departments or hospital admissions involving Nitrous Oxide in the last two years.

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 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

Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive

[1] Nelson Marlborough District Health Board