



Private Bag 18
Nelson, New Zealand

22 March 2022



Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information as received 28 January 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 28 February, where you seek the following information.

Following Andrew Little's announcement in December that Nelson Hospital is to receive upgrades worth more than \$1 million to help it prepare for the treatment of patients with Covid-19, I want to check in to see how this work is progressing. I understand this was split across several upgrades;

1. *It would be great to get an update on how each of these projects is going?*
 - a) *Reconfiguring outpatient services to make space within ED and create airflow units*
 - b) *Separating parts of ICU with partitioning to provide negative air flow in certain rooms*
 - c) *Creation of a dedicated Covid ward*

NMH response:

Table One outlines the various related projects.

TABLE ONE

Domino project	This project comprises a range of relocations and modifications to allow red/green streaming of patients through the Emergency Department (ED). For example, so as to allow ED to extend, the orthopaedic outpatient department was relocated to paediatric outpatients and paediatric outpatients was relocated to the Braemar campus. There are a number of smaller works underway. The work across this project has been completed or design work is underway to allow the relocations to be completed.
Create Red & Green zones. Convert former dialysis space to 2 new ICU bed spaces, Negative air to 6 rooms	Complete.
ATR relocation to Medical Unit	Complete as required but further changes can be made if necessary depending on patient activity.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

- 2. Is there any other work underway at Nelson Hospital/Wairau Hospital or other NMH facilities in preparation for the spread of Covid-19?**

NMH response:

There are various minor works underway that will support any COVID-19 response.

- 3. Is Nelson Marlborough Health working with any other partners (Manuka St Hospital for example) as part of the Covid-19 response?**

NMH response:

NMH is working with a wide variety of organisations in relation to the COVID-19 response. This includes the various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) within the wider health sector, and parties in the regional leadership groups within our region as established by Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and Ministry of Social Development (MSD) supporting the broader community response.

- 4. In terms of preparedness for community spread of coronavirus/Omicron, what capacity do Nelson and Wairau Hospitals have for Covid positive patients that need to be admitted?**

NMH response:

Nelson and Wairau Hospitals have identified the capacity and requirements for COVID-19 positive patients that require admission. This capacity is expected to meet the requirements based on the modelling work undertaken nationally.

- 5. In April 2020 I reported there were 140 beds at Nelson Hospital, seven beds in the intensive care unit, four negative pressure rooms and 15 ventilators – has there been any change to those figures? It would be great to get the same figures for Wairau Hospital.**

NMH response:

Nelson Hospital has the same number of beds and ventilators as at April 2020, with the exception that there is additional Intensive Care Coronary Unit (ICCU) capacity of 2 beds.

There are 66 beds at Wairau Hospital, four in the High Dependency Unit (HDU), and four ventilators.

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