

31 March 2022

Response to a request for official information

Thank you for your request for official information as transferred from the Ministry of Health and received 3 March 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, where you seek the following information:

I am enquiring regarding the data collection process that tracks availability of Rest Homes beds in New Zealand. I understand that the Department of Health and/or the District Health Boards contract an outsourced service to collate the daily availability of specific vacancies at all Rest Homes. As I understand it this status of availability is displayed solely on the website of Eldernet (<https://www.eldernet.co.nz/>).

I am interested to understand the nature of this agreement for data collection, and the accessibility of the data in the public domain. I feel that such data, disseminated widely through various platforms would be of great benefit to the public in seeking immediate access to rest homes based on the needs assessment on their own behalf or on behalf of a relative.

NMH response:

Regarding the actual data collection process, it is necessary to withhold this information under section 9(2)(b)(ii) 'to make that information available would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or is the subject of the information'.

Details of a business model and provisions of contractual information is commercially sensitive to the outsourced service. 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.

Eldernet Limited is contracted to provide a web-based mechanism to capture vacancy status of Aged Related Residential Care (ARRC) Providers in the Nelson Marlborough region.

For the general public

Eldernet provide a web-based tool for public access via the domain name www.eldernet.co.nz

Service vacancies (Yes or No) at each level of residential care are detailed, along with an overview of the facilities. Publicly available vacancy information assists prospective residents and/or families to make an informed choice as to options for residential care placements.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

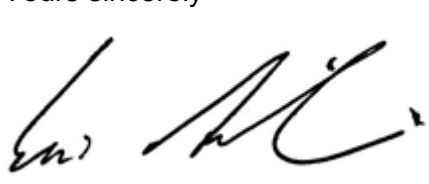
For aged residential care facilities

Eldernet support providers to update their vacancy status on a daily basis.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lexie O'Shea', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

pp. Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive