

14 April 2022



Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information as a transfer from the Ministry of Health and received 26 January 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by clarification received 11 February 2022, a necessary extension of time 16 February 2022 and notice of decision 23 March 2022, where you seek the following information.

"I've heard there are a few patients that have been hospitalised for more than month".

CLARIFICATION: *"All relate to all patients hospitalised with COVID-19 regardless of length of stay".*

1. How many patients have there been?

NMH response:

Eight people were admitted to hospital for COVID-19 related treatment from the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 to December 2021.

2. How long have they each stayed in hospital?

NMH response:

None of these patients stayed in hospital for more than 30 days. The shortest length of stay was 0 days and the longest length of stay was 11 days. The exact length of stay for each patient 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 information due to low numbers is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

3. How many have had to go into ICU and how long have they each stayed there (as part of their total time in hospital)?

NMH response:

The exact number of these patients who went to ICU 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 information due to low numbers is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

4. Were they on a ventilator when in ICU?

NMH response:

Yes.

5. How many of these patients were vaccinated when they presented at hospital?

NMH response:

This information is not held in a centralised database and, as such, NMH declines to respond under section 18(f) as *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*. It would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually go through individual files of patients admitted to hospital for the specified timeframe.

6. Any other details that can be provided (eg. age, ethnicity, sex)?

NMH response:

Please see our response to Q5.

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

Hilary Exton
Acting Chief Executive