

27 April 2022



### Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information received 27 January 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, followed by the necessary extension of time 16 February 2022 and notice of decision 23 March 2022, where you seek the following information:

- 1. Data showing the total population covered by the DHB's mental health and addiction services at the end of December 2021.**

**NMH response:**

The total population of Nelson Marlborough (160,000 people) is covered by the NMH Mental Health and Addiction Services.

- 2. Data showing the total number of full-time staff employed by the DHB's mental health services in each of the last three years to the end of December 2021, particularly the number of psychiatrists, psychologists, and nurses.**

**NMH response:**

Please see Table One, by Calendar Year from 2019 to 2021, noting this is full time employees.

**TABLE ONE**

By Category	2019	2020	2021
Grand Total	153	158	158
Psychiatrist	6	6	6
Psychologist	7	7	8
Nurse	76	86	86
Other	64	59	58

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

3. *A breakdown for each of the past three years to December 2021 showing the number of full-time psychiatrists, psychologists, and nurses employed in each of your mental health and addiction teams (eg alcohol and drug, child and youth, community, inpatient units etc).*

NMH response:

Please see Table Two, noting this is full-time employees.

**TABLE TWO**

<b>By Unit</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Acute Mental Health Unit	32	38	36
Nurse	32	38	36
Addictions – Wairau Hospital	1	1	1
Nurse	1	1	1
Alcohol & Drug Clinic	4	3	4
Nurse	4	3	4
Child & Adolescent Mental Health – Wairau Hospital	0	0	1
Psychologist	0	0	1
Child & Adolescent Mental Health – Nelson Hospital	6	8	10
Psychologist	3	4	5
Nurse	3	4	5
Crisis Assessment Team	9	11	13
Nurse	9	11	13
Early Intervention – Mental Health	1	1	1
Nurse	1	1	1
Manager Mental Health	1	3	2
Nurse	1	3	2
Maori Mental Health	0	0	2
Nurse	0	0	2
Medical – Mental Health	6	6	6
Psychiatrist	6	6	6
Needs Assessment – Mental Health	3	4	3
Nurse	3	4	3
Nelson Mental Health Community Team	8	6	7
Psychologist	2	1	1
Nurse	6	5	6
Tasman Mental Health Community Team	6	6	5
Psychologist	1	1	1
Nurse	5	5	4
Witherlea House (Blenheim)	12	12	9
Psychologist	1	1	0
Nurse	11	11	9

4. Data showing the number of vacancies for psychiatrists, psychologists, and nurses in each of those three years to December 2021, broken down by teams.

NMH response:

Please see Table Three which shows the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) advertised for Mental Health vacancies.

**TABLE THREE**

By Category	2019	2020	2021
Psychiatrists	5.0 FTE	8.4 FTE	12.6 FTE
Psychologists	3.2 FTE	6.6 FTE	6.7 FTE
Nurses	31.5 FTE	21.1 FTE	31.0 FTE

5. Data showing the number of psychiatrists, psychologists, and nurses who left the DHB's mental health and addiction services in each of those three years to December 2021, broken down by teams.

NMH response:

Please see Table Four, noting this includes part-time and full-time employees.

**TABLE FOUR**

Termination of employment	2019	2020	2021
Acute Mental Health Unit	2	7	8
Nurse	2	7	8
Addictions – Wairau Hospital	1	0	0
Nurse	1	0	0
Alcohol & Drug Clinic	3	1	0
Nurse	3	1	0
Child & Adolescent Mental Health – Wairau Hospital	0	0	1
Psychologist	0	0	1
Child & Adolescent Mental Health	2	6	8
Psychologist	1	4	2
Nurse	1	2	6
Crisis Assessment Team	0	0	1
Nurse	0	0	1
Early Intervention – Mental Health	0	1	0
Nurse	0	1	0
Manager Mental Health	1	0	0
Nurse	1	0	0
Medical – Mental Health	2	0	3
Psychiatrist	2	0	3
Needs Assessment – Mental Health	0	0	1
Nurse	0	0	1
Nelson Mental Health Community Team	3	1	1
Psychologist	1	1	1
Nurse	2	0	0
Nikau House (Nelson)	0	1	0
Psychologist	0	1	0
Tasman Mental Health Community Team	2	2	3
Psychologist	0	2	1

Nurse	2	0	2
<i>TABLE FOUR (Contd) Termination of employment</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>
Witherlea House (Blenheim)	1	3	5
Psychologist	0	1	0
Nurse	1	2	5

- 6. Details of what regular updates are received by the mental health and addiction service's senior leadership on workforce and/or recruitment. (For example, do they have access to a dashboard of key metrics that provides data in real time; do they receive weekly or monthly written reports; which key metrics do they track) If applicable, please provide copies of the three most recent updates.**

NMH response:

The volumes and challenges with workforce and recruitment are shown and/or addressed in other aspects of this OIA.

- 7. Copies of key documents held by senior management created in the last two years that were substantially about the challenges in recruitment and/or the impact of staffing pressures on services.**

NMH response:

Senior management, currently employed, do not hold information to meet this aspect of your request, and any information is not held in a form that is readily retrievable from our information system. As such, NMH declines to respond under section 18(f) 'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'. It would take a significant amount of time and resources to search and manually review electronic files.

- 8. Copies of key documents held by senior management created in the last two years that were substantially about the state of or challenges in CAMHS services.**

NMH response:

We are not aware of high-level information in a form described as 'key documents', however topics including staff vacancies and recruitment issues, waiting lists, and other challenges are discussed in management meetings and documented in monthly reports.

- 9. Copies of key documents held by senior management created in the last two years that were substantially about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on your mental health and addiction services.**

NMH response:

Our Business Continuity Plans are based on an operations delivery model across all health services, rather than by service.

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 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, and in this case we appreciate your position as an investigative journalist and would defer publication for at least 90 days from release. 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Lexie O'Shea', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lexie O'Shea  
**Chief Executive**