



25 November 2019

[REDACTED]  
Via Email: [REDACTED]

### **Response to a request for official information**

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information, as transferred from the Ministry of Health and received 22 October 2019 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, followed by the necessary extension of time 19 November 2019 where you seek the following information:

- 1. How many DHB health workers have contracted vaccine-preventable illnesses such as measles, whooping cough or flu while employed by DHBs in the past decade?**
- 2. Whether those workers had been vaccinated?**

NMH does not have a reporting system to capture causation of employee illness, and it would take a significant amount of time and resource to manually go through individual employee files. As such, NMH declines to respond under section 18(f) as *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*.

- 3. How many patients, if any, have contracted vaccine-preventable illnesses from health workers or other patients while in hospital in the past decade?**

NMH does not have a reporting system to determine whether a patient has acquired a vaccine-preventable illness from an employee, another patient, or from the community. There is no documented cross-infection of vaccine-preventable disease from employee to patient in the past 10 years.

NMH encourages employee uptake of the influenza vaccine and makes every effort to ensure all employees working in high-risk areas are immune to measles, rubella, chickenpox and whooping cough.

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)

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

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'P Bramley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Peter Bramley  
**Chief Executive**

cc: Ministry of Health via email: [SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz](mailto:SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz)