


10 December 2019

Via Email: 

Response to a request for official information

Dear 

Thank you for your request for official information as received 22 November 2019 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, including subsequent clarification and amendment, where you seek the following information:

- *All presentations to DHB EDs on Christmas Day, between 1201 and 2359, on December 25, in 2018, 2017 and 2016, broken down by emergency department/hospital (if there is more than one) and the ICD code/presenting complaint. Essentially every presentation by presenting complaint.*

Can the request please be amended/updated to ask for all presentations from 0001 to 2359 on December 25?

Please see Table 1 below for Total Emergency Department (ED) Presentations 00:01 – 23:59 on 25 December [Christmas Day], by Hospital for Calendar Years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

TABLE 1

Total ED Presentations 25 Dec by Hospital		
	NELSON	WAIRAU
Sun, 25 Dec-2016	57	45
Mon, 25 Dec-2017	65	51
Tue, 25 Dec-2018	61	27

Table 2 on the following page shows Total ED Presentations 00:01 – 23:59 on 25 December [Christmas Day], and International Classification of Diseases (ICD) code presenting complaint, by Hospital for Calendar Years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The breakdown by Hospital and ICD code gives such low numbers that NMH declines to release exact numbers less than five due to risk of individual identifiability under Section 9(2)(a) 'to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons'.

Please note: Some presenting complaints for ED presentations on 25 December 2016 were recorded as Free Text Descriptions, and these uncoded presenting complaints are displayed as 'Other'.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

TABLE 2

ED – ICD CODE PRESENTING COMPLAINT	Sun, 25 Dec-2016		Mon, 25 Dec-2017		Tue, 25 Dec-2018	
	NELSON	WAIRAU	NELSON	WAIRAU	NELSON	WAIRAU
Ataxia				<5*		
Dizziness/vertigo					<5*	
Headache			<5*		<5*	<5*
Memory loss				<5*		
Seizure			<5*	<5*		
Speech problem						<5*
Weakness of limb					<5*	
Chest pain			<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*
Collapse/syncope				<5*	<5*	<5*
Palpitations			<5*			<5*
Pain in eye				<5*		<5*
Red eye				<5*		
Visual disturbance					<5*	
Abdominal pain	<5*	<5*				
Chest pain (cardiac features)	<5*					
Diarrhea		<5*				
Fever	<5*					
Flank pain		<5*				
Foreign body ear	<5*					
Periorbital swelling	<5*					
Seizure	<5*					
Abdominal distension			<5*			
Abdominal pain			6	6	10	<5*
Altered bowel habit					<5*	<5*
Constipation			<5*	<5*		
Nausea/vomiting/diarrhoea			<5*	<5*	<5*	
Vomiting blood				<5*	<5*	
Complication of urinary catheter				<5*	<5*	
Male genital problem			<5*			
Urinary retention				<5*		
UTI symptoms					<5*	
Earache			<5*		<5*	
Hearing loss/tinnitus				<5*		
Sore throat					<5*	
Toothache/dental infection				<5*	<5*	
Anxiety					<5*	
Mental health problem					<5*	
Self-harm			<5*			
Suicidal thoughts					<5*	
Administration of medication				<5*		
Complication of device (not catheter)				<5*		
Fever symptoms			5	<5*	<5*	<5*
General weakness/fatigue/unwell			<5*	<5*	<5*	
Postoperative complication			<5*			
Script request					<5*	<5*
Back pain (no recent injury)			<5*			
Pain in lower limb (no recent injury)				<5*	<5*	

TABLE 2 CONTINUED

ED – ICD CODE PRESENTING COMPLAINT	Sun, 25 Dec-2016		Mon, 25 Dec-2017		Tue, 25 Dec-2018	
	NELSON	WAIRAU	NELSON	WAIRAU	NELSON	WAIRAU
Pain in upper limb (no recent injury)				<5*		
Plaster cast problem						<5*
Swelling of joint (no recent injury)					<5*	
Female genital problem			<5*			
Pregnancy problem			<5*		<5*	
Cough				<5*		<5*
Foreign body in respiratory tract (inhaled)				<5*		<5*
Shortness of breath			<5*	<5*	<5*	
Change of dressing				<5*		
Itching			<5*			
Localised lump/redness/swelling of skin			<5*	<5*		<5*
Open wound (abrasion/laceration)				<5*	<5*	<5*
Rash			<5*	<5*		<5*
Wound complication			<5*			<5*
Overdose of drug			<5*	<5*	<5*	
Injury of face			5	<5*		
Injury of head				<5*		<5*
Injury of lower limb			<5*	<5*	<5*	
Injury of neck					<5*	
Injury of upper limb			6	<5*	5	<5*
Multiple injuries - minor			<5*		<5*	
Other	48	42				

*The exact number is withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons. 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.

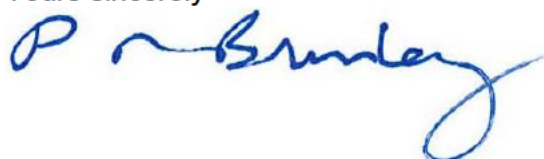
This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

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



Dr Peter Bramley
Chief Executive

cc: Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz