



11 December 2020

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 6 November 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 3 December 2020, where you seek the following information:

- 1. I would like information regarding how many foreign nationals have been charged by our public health system categorized by number of charges and nationality/passport region [between April 1st 2019 to 31st March 2020] ... by charges I mean transactions.***

e.g A foreign national visits Christchurch hospital due to an emergency, spends time in the bed and is medicated (possibly a minor operation is performed). At the end of the day He/She is discharged and charged/invoiced a certain amount for the services.

The example above I would consider as 1 charge.

NMH response: We do not maintain a record, other than the invoice which could include more or less than one event (or charge as defined in your request) for each time an invoice is raised. We can, however, provide the total amounts invoiced toward the value of hospital treatment provided for people not eligible for publicly funded health services as outlined in Table One.

For your information, we have included the total amounts paid to NMH and the remaining outstanding, the total amounts written off, and the three largest invoice amounts for each Financial Year (the financial system is set up to report 1 July to 30 June) since 1 July 2018.

TABLE ONE

Financial Year	Invoiced	Paid	Outstanding	Written-Off	Largest Invoice Amounts
2018/19	\$1,059,181	\$809,639	\$249,542	\$39,405	\$55,483 \$35,954 \$29,559
2019/20	\$1,232,307	\$977,163	\$255,144	\$95,359	\$52,775 \$37,598 \$37,162

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

Please note that we do not hold the nationality/passport details within our finance systems and to manually cross reference each invoice back to the individual patient clinical record would take a significant amount of time and resources. As such, NMH declines to respond for this part of your request under section 18(f) as *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*.

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