



Private Bag 18  
Nelson, New Zealand

20 July 2021

Via Email: [REDACTED]

### Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 2 July 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, where you seek the following information:

***Waikato DHB Chief Executive Dr. Kevin Snee recently stated to the press that: "I think we are fairly typical of DHBs in terms of our cyber security arrangements." I am concerned at the implication of this statement that any other DHB, including Nelson-Marlborough DHB, is also vulnerable to cyber security risks that could result in a cyber security incident, which could be typical of the incident that Waikato DHB is currently experiencing.***

- 1. Has Nelson-Marlborough DHB experienced any prior cyber security incidents?***
- 2. Has Nelson-Marlborough DHB prepared for cyber security incidents?***
- 3. What actions has Nelson-Marlborough DHB taken related to cyber security following the Waikato DHB cyber security incident?***
- 4. Is Nelson-Marlborough DHB confident they will not have any future cyber security incidents?***

NMH response: NMH finds good reason exists for withholding the information to meet each part of your request on the following grounds-

s6(c) the making available of that information would be likely 'to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences'; and  
s9(2)(c) to 'avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public'; and  
s9(2)(e) to 'avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public'; and  
s9(2)(k) to 'prevent the use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage'.

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.

---

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

District Health Boards are committed to the prevention, detection and investigation of cyber threats.

Our protections include limiting the information about cybersecurity activities that we make public, as this could increase the chance of attacks in the future.

On behalf of the community, it is very important that we protect information about our cybersecurity strategies and methods as much as possible to ensure criminals do not use that information to hinder or bypass our security controls.

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 [OIRequest@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:OIRequest@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



Lexie O'Shea  
**Chief Executive**