

8 April 2022

[REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 1 March 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by clarification received 15 March 2022 and the necessary extension of time 23 March 2022 where you seek the following information:

- 1. How long are waitlist times for the treatment of people presenting with mental health issues in the Nelson/Marlborough region? Please note this relates to their treatment in terms of case management/counselling rather than prescription treatment, after initial screening.***

NMH response:

This information is not held in a form that is readily retrievable from a central data system and it would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually go through the records of individual community contacts. As such, NMH refuses this aspect under section 18(f) 'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'.

- 2. How long were waitlist times this time last year, and how long were treatment waitlist times before unvaccinated case managers and counsellors were mandated out of their jobs in 2021? Please provide any and all information and data which tracks waitlist times for mental healthcare treatment.***

NMH response:

This information is not held in a form that is readily retrievable from a central data system and it would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually go through the records of individual community contacts. As such, NMH refuses this aspect under section 18(f) 'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'.

- 3. Please provide any and all information showing how many mental health related prescriptions (eg anti-depressants) have been written in the Nelson/Marlborough region month-on-month for the last year.***

NMH response:

NMH Hospital prescribing is not captured in a form that is readily retrievable from a central data system and it would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually go through all prescriptions written. As such, NMH refuses this aspect under section 18(f) 'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'.

NMH does not collect Community prescribing data, including that from General Practitioners, Nurse Practitioners, Private Specialists, for the Nelson Marlborough region.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

4. How many mental healthcare workers in the Nelson/Marlborough region lost their jobs due to the Government Covid-19 vaccine mandates in 2021?

NMH response:

We do not collect information for all healthcare workers across the Nelson Marlborough district, however NMH lost 9 unvaccinated employees as a result of the vaccine mandate.

5. How many FTE general healthcare workers lost their jobs in Golden Bay exclusively?

CLARIFICATION: How many staff were lost to mental health in Golden Bay, and how many were lost to general healthcare in Golden Bay, same with recruits.

NMH response:

NMH does not collect information for “general healthcare workers” in the Golden Bay region.

6. How many of these jobs have been refilled by outside recruits?

CLARIFICATION: How many staff were lost to mental health in Golden Bay, and how many were lost to general healthcare in Golden Bay, same with recruits.

NMH response:

Please see our response to Question 5.

7. Are beds in Golden Bay open to admission by local G.P's as a result of staffing, or are beds open to palliative care only?

CLARIFICATION: Here I am referring to acute beds at Golden Bay Community Health.

NMH response:

Acute beds are open to referral from GPs for any reason they consider clinically appropriate, and are not restricted to palliative only.

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 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