

13 June 2022

[REDACTED]
Via Email: [REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 24 May 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, where you seek following information.

- 1. How many theatre nurses you are currently short? I am referring to vacancies, rather than Covid absences.***

NMH response:

NMH is currently advertising for 7.1 full time equivalent (FTE) theatre nurses.

- 2. What impact is this having on planned care? eg are theatres sometimes not able to be used because there are not enough nurses.***

NMH response:

This is having no impact on planned care.

- 3. If there is an impact, can you please estimate what percentage of operations are not able to go ahead, or how many hours theatre time can not be used, or any other tangible measure the impact is having.***

NMH response:

In reference to the accepted definition of official information 'held', agencies are required to provide a fact-based response. There is no obligation to create information and/or form an opinion and, as such, NMH refuses this aspect of your request under section 18(g) *'the information requested is not held by the department or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either (i) held by another department or organisation; or (ii) connected more closely with the functions of another department or organisation'*.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

4. What are you doing to resolve the problem?

NMH response:

There is a general nursing shortage and the government, the Ministry of Health and District Health Boards in partnership with unions are taking a wide range of measures to address this situation – including nursing recruitment campaigns, funding to support nurses who are not currently practising to return to the nursing workforce, funding to support the employment of graduate nurses, and nursing training initiatives.

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



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive