

16 April 2021

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Re: Official Information Act request - Number of non resident patients admitted

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 9 March 2021 requesting the following information:

- 1. I'm looking into the number of non-residents who are admitted to ADHB clinics and hospitals. What I'm looking for is the number of non-residents treated for each of the last five years, and what percentage that is of total admittances.
- 2. Also, I wonder if you can help me answer a question, but what happens to the bill/costs. Are these people liable or is that debt written off? If that is written off, are you able to provide me with the amount for the same period, please?

RESPONSE

1. The number of non-residents admitted to ADHB clinics and hospitals versus the total admissions is summarised in the Table below:

| Financial Year ending 30 June | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021*1 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Non Residents Admitted | 1,136 | 1,544 | 1,176 | 1,265 | 476 |
| Total Admissions | 132,625 | 132,880 | 135,634 | 130,711 | 90,273 |
| % of Non Residents Admitted | 0.9% | 1.2% | 0.9% | 1.0% | 0.5% |

^{*1 2020/21} data is for YTD February period (not a complete year)

2. Where treatment is provided to people who are not eligible for publically funded healthcare, such as non-residents, they are invoiced for their care. If a debt remains unpaid, it is normally referred to a debt collection agency and may be written off. The debt collection agency is then tasked with collecting the unpaid debt on the DHB's behalf.

The total net debt written off for the last five years is per the table below:

| Financial Year ending 30 June (\$s) | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Non Residents | 2,385,028 | 3,180,066 | 4,969,954 | 3,814,337 | 3,633,769 |

NB. Net write offs are the total amounts of bad debt written off during the financial year and may not necessarily relate to the total amount that was invoiced for ADHB non-resident patients for that financial year.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully

Ailsa Claire, OBE

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Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)