

25 October 2021

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**Re: Official Information Act request – ICU**

I refer to your Official Information Act request received dated 23 August 2021 requesting the following information:

- 1. Since March 2020 and by each month thereafter, the number of fully staffed/operational ICU beds available, ICU capacity, a breakdown of all ICU staff (such as numbers of ICU nurses) and any vacancies, and how many surgeries were rescheduled or postponed/cancelled.**
- 2. Since March 2020, copies of any reports, documents or briefings that include information about ICU capacity, including (but not limited to) in relation to Covid-19, such as contingency plans to scale up capacity.**
- 3. Since March 2020, copies of all correspondence with the Ministry of Health regarding critical care and ICU, in relation to Covid-19, such as confirmation of current capacity and plans to scale up capacity.**

**Response**

- 1. Since March 2020 and by each month thereafter, the number of fully staffed/operational ICU beds available, ICU capacity, a breakdown of all ICU staff (such as numbers of ICU nurses) and any vacancies, and how many surgeries were rescheduled or postponed/cancelled.**

We have separated our response to this question into 1.1 & 1.2:

- 1.1) Number of patients and number of resourced beds. These are taken at midnight and includes Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, Critical Care ward, Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and Newborn Intensive Care Unit.

YYYYMM	Patients	Resourced beds	Capacity
202103	2,667	2,976	90%
202104	2,563	2,880	89%
202105	2,724	2,983	91%
202106	2,755	2,904	95%
202107	2,878	2,929	98%
202108	2,383	2,914	82%
202003	2,253	2,960	76%
202004	1,722	2,880	60%
202005	2,166	2,976	73%
202006	2,128	2,881	74%
202007	2,641	2,976	89%
202008	2,528	2,976	85%
202009	2,444	2,880	85%
202010	2,461	2,976	83%
202011	2,387	2,888	83%
202012	2,635	2,976	89%
202101	2,448	2,976	82%
202102	2,424	2,688	90%

1.2) Number of theatre events cancelled or postponed. Note that this includes clinical, patient and resource based postponements and cancellations.

YYYYMM	Number of cancelled / postponed surgeries
202003	154
202004	58
202005	100
202006	119
202007	170
202008	150
202009	173
202010	133
202011	152
202012	134
202101	129
202102	159
202103	197
202104	143
202105	200
202106	194
202107	170
202108	168

2. **Since March 2020, copies of any reports, documents or briefings that include information about ICU capacity, including (but not limited to) in relation to Covid-19, such as contingency plans to scale up capacity.**

Please see attachments 1 - 5

3. **Since March 2020, copies of all correspondence with the Ministry of Health regarding critical care and ICU, in relation to Covid-19, such as confirmation of current capacity and plans to scale up capacity.**

We have considered whether charging or further extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

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](http://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 sincerely,



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
**Chief Executive**

**Encl.**

1. *ICU capacity FINAL v1.0.pdf*
2. *Escalation plan V1.pptx*
3. *Critical Care Strategy (Master Appendix)*
4. *Critical Care Strategy Post COVID*
5. *Critical Care Strategy Additional Document.*