

16 November 2021

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Re: Official Information Act request – Maternity Services Data

I refer to your Official Information Act request clarified 21 October 2021 requesting the following information:

- 1. Data on the raw number of caesarean sections 2015 to 2021 conducted at the DHB broken down like this:**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Planned												
Emergency												

- 2. Data on the number of episiotomies conducted at the DHB since 2015, broken down by year**
- 3. Data on the number of epidurals conducted at the DHB since 2015, broken down by year**
- 4. Data on the number of births at DHB facilities, broken down by year, since 2015**
- 5. Data on the average number of FTE core midwifery positions (NOT community midwives) employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2015**
- 6. Data on the average number of FTE community midwifery positions employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2015**
- 7. Data on spending/cost of maternity services per year, broken down by year since 2015 (NOT including building maintenance and upgrades, just staffing and the costs of actually running the services)**
- 8. Data on the average number of beds within the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2015**

Response

- 1. Data on the raw number of caesarean sections 2015 to 2021 conducted at the DHB**
- 2. Data on the number of episiotomies conducted at the DHB since 2015, broken down by year**
- 3. Data on the number of epidurals conducted at the DHB since 2015, broken down by year**
- 4. Data on the number of births at DHB facilities, broken down by year, since 2015**

Please note that the annual reports to 2015- 2020, cover most of the data you have requested at this site:

<https://www.nationalwomenshealth.adhb.govt.nz/healthprofessionals/annual-clinical-report/national-womens-annual-clinical-report/>

Clinical data for 2021, for questions 1-4 has not yet been collated and we decline this 2021 part of your request because it would require the review of individual clinical records of patients.

Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files and, although we have considered it, it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or 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.

We have provided the information available in the summary response below.

Summary response to questions 1 - 4

National Women's Hospital	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of Births	6933	7241	6848	6481	6660	6212
Number of LSCS	2468	2608	2709	2532	2571	2356
Number of Epidurals	2861 (5428 total laboured incl. induced)	3003 (5715 total laboured incl. induced)	2909 (5236 total laboured incl. induced)	2767 (4923 total laboured incl. induced)	2867 (5084 total laboured incl. induced)	2897 (4818 total laboured incl. induced)
Numbers of Episiotomies	4465 vaginal births 1228 episiotomies	4633 vaginal births 1375 episiotomies	4137 vaginal births 1458 episiotomies	3949 vaginal births 1308 episiotomies	4089 vaginal births 1367 episiotomies	3856 vaginal births 1170 episiotomies

Note: LCSC abbreviates Lower Segment Caesarean Section

5. Data on the average number of FTE core midwifery positions (NOT community midwives) employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2015

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Average number of FTE core midwifery positions	105.43	102.76	98.07	100.26	103.28	103.31

6. Data on the average number of FTE community midwifery positions employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2015

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Average number of FTE community midwifery positions	21.08	20.99	18.54	19.65	21.42	22.25

7. Data on spending/cost of maternity services per year, broken down by year since 2015 (NOT including building maintenance and upgrades, just staffing and the costs of actually running the services)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Spending/cost of maternity services per year \$	37,427,403	38,999,199	40,400,102	43,346,392	42,890,169	44,244,118

8. Data on the average number of beds within the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2015

- The total inpatient beds in WH Maternity Unit is 53 (Tamaki Ward, Ward 96 and Ward 98); Women's Assessment Unit = 14 beds; Labour & Birthing Suite = 16 beds
- Note that in 2015 – 2018 we had 44 beds in Wards 96 and 98; Tamaki Ward = 20 beds

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive