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**Re: Official Information Act request – ICU nurses and utilisation of beds**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 24 September and clarified 4 October by us and on 6 October by Waitemata DHB requesting the following information:

**I request all original communications including briefings, reports, memos, aide's memoirs, cabinet papers and texts regarding the following information:**

- **How many ICU nurses (head count) were on payroll at 13 May 2020, 1 April 2021 and 16 August 2021?**
- **How many ICU nurses (head count) left and joined the DHB between May 5 and Aug 16 2021?**
- **How many ICU nurses (head count), ICU beds and ICU patients, ventilated and coronavirus positive were there when the request was made for more ICU nurses at or around Sept 1<sup>st</sup>?**
- **What was the utilization rate of ICU beds from Aug 16 2021 to Aug 24 2021 inclusive listed by day?**
- **What was the ICU/HDU nurse ratio of nurses to patients daily from 1 August 2021 to 15 Sept 2021 listed by day?**
- **Copies of any communications to and from the DHB with government officials or other DHBs with concerns or requests around ICU nurses**
- **How many negative pressure isolation rooms were there at 13 May 2020, 1 April 2021 and 16 August 2021?**
- **What was the utilization rate of negative pressure isolation rooms from August 16 2021 to the 15 Sept 2021 listed by day?**
- **Copies of any communications to and from the DHB with government officials or other DHBs with concerns or requests around negative pressure isolation rooms including the addition of any further rooms during the recent outbreak**
- **Copies of patient visitor policies from Aug 15 to Sept 15 2021, specifically and changes to policy during the recent outbreak**

In the clarification process you advised us that:

“Briefings and reports usually contain and or summarise data and should be taken as synonymous however for clarity may I please have the data associated with this request.”

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

1. **How many ICU (intensive care unit) nurses (head count) were on payroll at 13 May 2020, 1 April 2021 and 16 August 2021?**

Please see **Attachment 1** ICU Nurse Headcount Data

2. **How many ICU nurses (head count) left and joined the DHB between May 5 and Aug 16 2021?**

Please see **Attachment 1** ICU Nurse Headcount Data

3. **How many ICU nurses (head count), ICU beds and ICU patients, ventilated and coronavirus-positive, were there when the request was made for more ICU nurses at or around September 1?**

Please see **Attachment 1** ICU Nurse Headcount Data and the following:

ICU ward	Resourced beds	Occupied beds	Occupancy	COVID-19 patients	Ventilated
CICU48	22	16	73%	2	
DCCM82	17	15	88%	2	
PICU	22	12	55%	0	
<b>All</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>4</b>	

The data we have does not confirm categorically if ventilation hours happened on 01/09. We are releasing the data that we do have. We have 43 events recorded, 34 of which have been coded.

Of coded events:

- 23 patients had some hours of MV (Mechanical Ventilation)
- 7 of these also had some hours of NIV (Non-Invasive)
- 5 patients had some hours of NIV and 0 MV hours
- 6 patients had neither MV or NIV hours coded

Of 4 COVID-19 patients:

- 2 had some hours of MV
- 1 also had some hours of NIV
- 2 had some hours of NIV and 0 MV hours

4. **What was the utilisation rate of ICU beds from August 16 2021 to August 24 2021 inclusive listed by day?**

	16/08/2021	17/08/2021	18/08/2021	19/08/2021	20/08/2021	21/08/2021	22/08/2021	23/08/2021	24/08/2021	TOTAL
DCCM Midnight Occupancy (W82)	14	16	14	12	13	16	10	13	10	118
DCCM Resourced Capacity (W82)	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	153
	82%	94%	82%	71%	76%	94%	59%	76%	59%	77%
	16/08/2021	17/08/2021	18/08/2021	19/08/2021	20/08/2021	21/08/2021	22/08/2021	23/08/2021	24/08/2021	TOTAL
CICU Midnight Occupancy (W48)	16	17	17	17	18	12	11	17	16	141
CICU Resourced Capacity (W48)	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	198
	73%	77%	77%	77%	82%	55%	50%	77%	73%	71%
	16/08/2021	17/08/2021	18/08/2021	19/08/2021	20/08/2021	21/08/2021	22/08/2021	23/08/2021	24/08/2021	TOTAL
PICU Midnight Occupancy	14	18	18	13	14	11	13	15	13	129
PICU Resourced Capacity	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	198
	64%	82%	82%	59%	64%	50%	59%	68%	59%	65%

**5. What was the ICU/HDU nurse ratio of nurses to patients daily from 1 August 2021 to 15 September 2021 listed by day?**

Please see **Attachment 2** ICU and HDU nurses ratio 1 Aug to 15 Sept.

**6. Copies of any communications to and from the DHB with government officials or other DHBs with concerns or requests around ICU nurses from 1 May 2020 to 24 September 2021.**

We do have several documents that we believe are in scope for answering this request, as detailed below. The relevant documents are attached as **Attachment 3** NR ICU Letter, **Attachment 4** Northern Region ICU Services response 05102020 Redacted.pdf and **Attachment 5** Redacted Communications.

**7. How many negative pressure isolation rooms were there at 13 May 2020, 1 April 2021 and 16 August 2021?**

There were 51 airborne infection isolation room bed spaces (negative pressure bed spaces) at Auckland DHB for each of the dates 13 May 2020, 1 April 2021 and 16 August 2021.

**8. What was the utilization rate of negative pressure isolation rooms from August 16 2021 to the 15 Sept 2021 listed by day?**

Please see **Attachment 6** for the utilisation rate of airborne infection isolation room bed spaces (negative pressure bed spaces) by day 16/08/2021 to 15/09/2021 for Auckland City Hospital and Starship Hospital.

**9. Copies of patient visitor policies from August 15 to September 15 2021, specifically and changes to policy during the recent outbreak**

Please see **Attachments 7 – 19** for policies and a policy notice guiding visiting between these dates. The policy dated 29/09/2021 is the current version of our patient whānau and visitor guidance. Please note that between 15<sup>th</sup> August and 17<sup>th</sup> August, we had no specific COVID-19 patient whānau and visitor's guidance in place. We re-introduced our previous guidance

(document dated 15/02/21) on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021 following identification of new community cases of COVID-19.

I trust this information answers your questions.

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.**

- Attachment 1 ICU Nurse Headcount Data*
- Attachment 2 ICU and HDU nurses ratio 1 Aug to 15 Sept*
- Attachment 3 NR ICU Letter.pdf*
- Attachment 4 Northern Region ICU Services response 05102020 Redacted.pdf*
- Attachment 5 Redacted Communications.pdf*
- Attachment 6 Utilisation airborne infection isolation room 16082021 to 15092021*
- Attachment 7 Auckland DHB Visitor Guide 27092021*
- Attachment 8 All DHB COVID-19 Hospital & Clinic Patient Visiting Policy September 2021*
- Attachment 9 ADHB COVID-19 Welcome Poster.pdf*
- Attachment 10 Visitor Guide During COVID 10092021*
- Attachment 11 Patient Visitor Guide 140092021*
- Attachment 12. Auckland DHB visitors during COVID quarantine.pdf*
- Attachment 13. Visiting Within Te Whetu Tawera.pdf*
- Attachment 14. Visitors - Grafton site.pdf*
- Attachment 15. Visitors to the Operating Room and Central Sterile Supply Department.pdf*
- Attachment 16. 15 Feb 2021 Visitor Guide during COVID-19 v6.pdf*
- Attachment 17. Visiting within Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre.pdf*
- Attachment 18. Visitors - Child and Family Unit.pdf*
- Attachment 19. Visitors to PICU.pdf*