



**Hospital Services**

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[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: OIA request – Maternity services data**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 20 October 2021 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the trends in the number of maternity staff, beds and budget from 2010, broken down by year.

On 21 October, we contacted you seeking to narrow the scope of your request to the past three financial years.

In addition, we advised that information for part of your request is publicly available for the following questions:

- 1. Data on the raw number of caesarean sections conducted at the DHB broken down by planned or emergency for the past three financial years, broken down by year.**
- 2. Data on the number of episiotomies conducted at the DHB for the past three financial years, broken down by year.**
- 3. Data on the number of epidurals conducted at the DHB for the past three financial years, broken down by year.**

Please visit the following sites for this information:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/health-statistics-and-data-sets/report-maternity-series> and

<https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/pmmrc/>

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

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

**4. Data on the number of births at DHB facilities, broken down by year, for the past three financial years.**

<b>Number of births at Waitematā DHB hospitals for the past three years</b>			
Financial year	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
North Shore Hospital	3868	3808	3868
Waitakere Hospital	2728	2812	2722

**5. Data on the average number of full-time equivalent (FTE) core midwifery positions (NOT community midwives) employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year for the past three years**

The information provided below is at a certain point-in-time annually from 2019 to 2021. Core midwifery positions refers to midwives employed in our hospitals, at either North Shore or Waitakere.

<b>Core midwives employed by Waitematā DHB 2019 to 2021</b>			
	30 June 2019	30 June 2020	30 June 2021
Core* midwife FTE	95.7	98.2	99.6

\*Core midwife is a midwife employed to work in a hospital ward.

**6. Data on the average number of FTE community midwifery positions employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year for the past three financial years**

<b>Community midwives employed by Waitematā DHB 2019 -2021</b>			
	30 June 2019	30 June 2020	30 June 2021
Community midwife* FTE	19.6	21.5	21.2

\*Community midwife is a midwife employed to work in the community and clinic setting, this number excludes self-employed community midwives also called Lead Maternity Carers (LMC) who are funded directly by the Ministry of Health.

**7. Data on spending/cost of maternity services per year, broken down by year for the past three financial years (NOT including building maintenance and upgrades, just staffing and the costs of actually running the services)**

The information provided below includes all staffing and operational costs.

<b>Waitematā DHB maternity services expenditure</b>			
Financial year	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Maternity expenditure	\$18,605,801	\$19,784,226	\$19,968,339

**8. Data on the average number of FTE obstetrician positions/ average hours worked by obstetricians employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year for the past three financial years.**

<b>Average number of FTE obstetrician positions at Waitematā DHB</b>			
Financial year	30 June 2019	30 June 2020	30 June 2021
Obstetrician FTE	18.9	21.7	21.5

The average hours worked per obstetrician is not available, obstetricians claim individually for additional hours and there is no centralised system to extract this information.

**9. Data on the number of code reds that have occurred at the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year for the past three financial years.**

**10. Data on the number of code blacks that have occurred at the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year.**

We are providing a combined response to questions 9 and 10. The DHB operates a Variance Response Management system and high demand is indicated on the Variance Indicator Board (VIB) with green, orange and red indicators. There is no “Code Black” defined in this system. The table below shows the number of times the system has responded to a red indicator in our hospitals’ birthing suites/maternity units:

Number of VIB Red at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals’ maternity units			
Financial year	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
VIB Red*	3	1	9

\* VIB Red – This is where staff determine that the staffing does not meet the level of acuity in a unit and nursing resources are reviewed and adjusted so that ongoing safe clinical care is maintained.

**11. Data on the average number of beds within the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year for the past three financial years.**

Number of maternity unit beds at Waitematā DHB			
Financial year	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Maternity beds	86	86	86

**12. Data on maternal deaths during or shortly before/after labour (within 7 days), broken down by year for the past three financial years.**

**13. Data on deaths of babies during or shortly before/after birth (within 7 days), broken down by year for the past three financial years.**

We are providing a combined response to questions 12 and 13. Information about perinatal and maternal mortality is collected nationally and reported annually by the Health Safety Quality Commission. Here is a link to their website <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/pmmrc/>

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community 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 consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



**Executive Director Hospital Services  
Waitematā District Health Board**