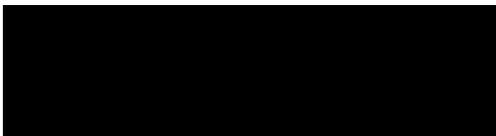


13 April 2022



Dear 

Re: OIA requests – Dietitians, dietitian assistants and dietitian interns

Thank you for your three requests under the Official Information Act received 18 March 2022 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about dietitians, dietitian assistants and dietitian interns.

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 more than 8,900 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:

1.
 - a) **The actual number of dietitians i.e. headcount and FTE**
 - b) **The actual number of dietitian assistants i.e. headcount and FTE**
 - c) **The actual number of dietitian interns i.e. headcount and FTE**

Number of dietitians, assistants and interns as at 18 March 2022		
Category	Headcount	FTE
Dietitians	59	36.5
Dietitian assistants	2	1.55
Dietitian interns	0	0

- d) **The number of resignations and pending resignations since 18 March 2021 broken down into dietitians, dietitian assistants and dietitian interns.**

Resignations*	
Dietitians	5 (3.6 FTE)
Dietitian assistants	0
Dietitian interns	0

*Reasons for resignations include moving overseas, moving to a role outside health and leaving Auckland.

2.

- a) The number of staff hired in the above positions since 18 March 2021 i.e. Headcount and FTE
- b) How many years experience in the same or substantially similar role of each new hire?
- c) Where they started on the salary scale?

The DHB has hired five staff since 18 March 2021.

Number of staff	FTE	Step started	Years experience
1	0.2	3	18 months
1	1.0	7	4 years
1	1.0	6	3 years
1	0.7	5	2.25 years
1	1.0	9	3 years

It is an agreed clause in union collective agreements that professions that require a masters degree as a minimum level to enter the profession will be placed on step 3 of the relevant employment agreement; this applies to dietitians. Some of the above staff came to the Waitematā DHB having been in similar roles and that experience was recognised when they started their new role at Waitematā DHB.

3.

- a) The number of merit applications broken down into dietitians, dietitian assistants and dietitian interns at your DHB.

Current applications: Dietitian (Career and Salary Progression - CASP) = Four (4)
 Dietetic assistant (Merit) = Three (3) or fewer*
 Dietitian interns – none employed at Waitematā DHB.

*We are withholding the exact number under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of individual staff members. Disclosing the exact number creates the risk that individuals will be identifiable.

We have considered whether the public interest in releasing this information outweighs the need for individual privacy and have concluded that it does not.

- b) The number of successful merit applications broken down into dietitians, dietitian assistants and dietitian interns at your DHB.

Successful merit applications completed between 18 March 2021 and 18 March 2022:

 Dietitian (CASP) = Three (3) or fewer*
 Dietetic assistant (Merit) = Nil
 Dietitian interns – none employed at Waitematā DHB.

*As above, the exact number is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of individual staff members as disclosing the exact number creates the risk that individuals will be identifiable.

We have considered whether the public interest in releasing this information outweighs the need for individual privacy and have concluded that it does not.

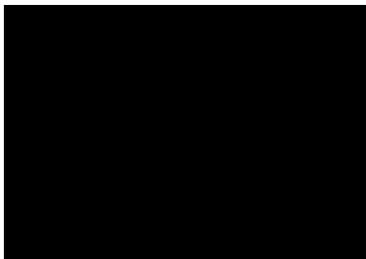
You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to seek a review is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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



**Director People and Culture
Waitematā District Health Board**