



24 March 2022



Dear

**Re: OIA request – Number of ICU beds**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the number of ICU beds we operate. Your request was partially transferred to us on 28 February from the Ministry of Health.

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:

**Data on how many ICU beds NZ had as at 1.1.2020 and again ICU beds in NZ as at 18.1.2022. I would like this data to include bed numbers that can actually be used vs allocated beds that cannot be staffed.**

On 1 January 2020, we had 14 bed spaces available, with demand for eight beds which were fully staffed, with eight ICU nursing staff on day shift and seven on night shift.

On 18 January 2022, 10 bed spaces were available and each of these were fully staffed, with 11 nursing staff on day shift and 10 on night shift. Building work to create negative pressure spaces had temporarily closed four beds.

Our ICU bed and staffing numbers are flexed up or down, according to daily demand.

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**