



30 April 2021

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

**Re: OIA request – Children’s health conditions**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 30 March seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about children’s health conditions.

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:

***Can I please have the number of children (aged 0-14) recorded by your DHB with the following conditions in the years 2014, 2017 and 2020?***

- ***whooping cough***
- ***rheumatic fever***
- ***bronchiolitis***
- ***broncho pneumonia***
- ***serious dental disease***
- ***malnutrition.***

**Table 1: Whooping cough and rheumatic fever in children age 0 – 14 recorded by Waitematā DHB in the years 2014, 2017 and 2020, broken down by hospital admissions and community treatment**

Inpatient admissions						
	2014	% of admissions	2017	% of admissions	2020	% of admissions
Whooping cough	7	0.09%	14	0.08%	2	0.03%
Rheumatic fever	6	0.07%	5	0.16%	11	0.17%

Community treatment			
	2014	2017	2020
Whooping cough	Managed in primary health care.*		
Rheumatic fever	39	44	57

\*Community treatment of whooping cough is managed in primary health care. To provide a response to this aspect of your request would require the review of a large volume of individual clinical records of patients held by the GP practices in our catchment.

Due to the sensitivity of this information, our frontline clinical staff would need to collate the information. This would take our staff away from their core functions and prejudice our ability to provide core 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.

**Table 2: Bronchiolitis, broncho pneumonia, serious dental disease and/or malnutrition in children age 0-14 recorded by Waitematā DHB for hospital admissions in the years 2014, 2017 and 2020**

Hospital admissions						
	2014	% of admissions	2017	% of admissions	2020	% of admissions
Bronchiolitis	429	5.6%	539	6.2%	181	2.0%
Bronchopneumonia	94	1.2%	98	1.1%	38	0.4%
Serious Dental Disease	5	0.06%	9	0.1%	s9(2)a*	-
Malnutrition	83	1.1%	203	2.3%	141	1.5%

\*Numbers lower than three have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 to protect the privacy of natural persons.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman. Information about how to seek a review is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

I trust that the information we have been able to provide 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**