

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

CORPORATE OFFICE

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9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10136

I refer to your email dated 2 July 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB, regarding expectant mothers and/or newborn babies who are transferred to out of town DHBs and the reason for the transfer.

For the past three years, broken down by year:

1. How often have expectant mothers and/or newborn babies been transferred to DHBs outside Canterbury?

Please refer to **Appendix 1 Table one** (attached below) which provides the year and month by month detail of how many mothers have been transferred outside Canterbury to birth since March 2015.

2. Why were they transferred:

The mothers were transferred to another DHB to birth because the Neonatal Unit was at or over capacity.

3. Where were they transferred to?

Most of the units the mothers were transferred to were able to provide tertiary care for the baby post-delivery. However, there were times when it was recognised that secondary care would be all that was required so were transferred to DHB's such as Nelson, Palmerston North and Timaru. Refer to **Appendix 1 Table one** (attached below) for detailed break down

4. Were any transferred to Australia?

No, there were no expectant mothers and/or newborn babies transferred to Australia.

5. Can you please tell me the occupancy rates for your neonatal wards over the past three years?

Over the past three years the occupancy rate for the neonatal service has averaged 102%. Frequently over 105% and at times sitting at 125%

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support

Appendix 1: Table one.

Date	Number mothers transferred	Total	Comments
2015			
March	Dunedin x 1 Wellington x 1	2	Neonatal over capacity
April	Wellington x 1 Dunedin x 1	2	Neonatal over capacity
May	Dunedin x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
June	Wellington x1 Dunedin x 3	4	Neonatal over capacity
September	Dunedin x 5 Wellington x 1 Waikato x 1	7	Neonatal over capacity
October	Dunedin x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
December	Dunedin x 2 Wellington x 2	4	Neonatal over capacity
2016			
January	Dunedin x 1 Wellington x 1	2	Neonatal over capacity
March	Dunedin x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
May	Wellington x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
June	Wellington x 1 Dunedin x 1	2	Neonatal over capacity
July	Dunedin x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
October	Dunedin x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
November	Dunedin X4 Wellington x1	5	Neonatal over capacity
December	Dunedin x 4	4	Neonatal over capacity
2017			
January	Dunedin x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
February	Dunedin x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
March	Dunedin x 2	2	Neonatal over capacity
April	Dunedin x 3 Wellington x 3	6	Neonatal over capacity
May	Nelson x 2 Dunedin x 6	8	Neonatal over capacity
July	Wellington x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
August	Middlemore x 1 Dunedin x 2	3	Neonatal over capacity
September	Dunedin x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity

November	Dunedin x 2	2	Neonatal over capacity
December	Dunedin x 1 Wellington x1 Middlemore x1	3	Neonatal over capacity
2018			
February	Dunedin x3 Wellington x1	4	Neonatal over capacity
July	Dunedin x 2	2	Neonatal over capacity
September	Dunedin x 5	5	Neonatal over capacity
October	Dunedin x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
November	Dunedin x 1	1	Neonatal over capacity
December	Dunedin x 4 Wellington x 2 Nelson x 1	7	Neonatal over capacity
2019			
January	Wellington x 3	3	Neonatal over capacity
February	Dunedin x 3 Wellington x 1 National Women's x 1 Timaru x 1	6	Neonatal over capacity
May	Wellington x 1 Dunedin x 1 Timaru x 1	3	Neonatal over capacity
June	Timaru x 2 Nelson x 1 Wellington x 1 Dunedin x 1 National women's x 1	6	Neonatal over capacity
July	Palmerston North x 1 Nelson x 1 Blenheim x 1 Dunedin x 1	4	Neonatal over capacity