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23 February 2022

9(2)(a)



RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10804

We refer to your request dated 19 January 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

The Ministry of Health has informed me that in some areas, external and internal pressure has reduced the number of beds available for age residential care, and I am looking to discover what areas have been affected by this.

With that in mind, I request the following information under the terms of the Official Information Act 1982.

Since March 2020 have you had to reduce the number of beds you can offer for aged residential care? How many beds did you offer in March 2020, and how many do you offer now? If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of age residential care beds available?

Unfortunately, we do not hold the exact information that you have requested as your dates fall outside the reporting parameters by which we are supplied the information. We can confirm, however, that in February 2020 there were 5,721 Aged Residential Care Beds available. This number increased to 6,341 available beds in November 2021. The number quoted for available beds is the total number of reported Aged Residential Care beds and includes both those that are occupied and unoccupied.

Have you had to reduce the number of general hospital beds available since March 2020? If so, what has caused the DHB to reduce the number of general beds available? How many general hospital beds were available in your catchment area in March 2020, and how many general hospital beds are available now?

We note your 25 January 2022 clarification of general hospital beds, referring to any patient bed in any Christchurch hospital.

The recorded number of physical beds available for each ward as reported to the Ministry of Health for current occupancy reporting in March 2020 was 732 in total.

The recorded number of physical beds available for each ward as reported to the Ministry of Health for current occupancy reporting in January 2022 is 751 in total.

There has been no reduction in the number of beds.

The recorded number of beds excludes Emergency Department, Day Wards and cots, however, does include all other wards, including ICU, maternity etc. – it is not restricted to “general hospital beds” only as that has not been defined.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RLS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right underneath it.

Ralph La Salle
Senior Manager, OIAs
Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB.