

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165
carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz

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RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10097

I refer to your email dated 2 May 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

1. How many women have been transferred to another city to give birth in the past six months – broken down by month? Why were they taken to another city for the birth i.e. was it due to lack of space?
2. How many women have had to give birth in another city in the past six months because their baby needed care in a neonatal unit and the CWH unit was full? Can you provide numbers broken down by month?
3. How many women were sent to another city to give birth in 2018, broken down by month?
4. What cities have women been sent to from Christchurch to give birth?

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for our response to Questions 1-4 for the past six months.

Table one:

Month/Year	Number women transferred	Reason for transfer	City transferred to	How many gave birth in other centre
December 2018	7 (twins x2)	NICU Full	Dunedin x4 Wellington x2 Nelson x1	5
January 2019	3	NICU Full	Wellington x3	3
February 2019	6	NICU Full	Dunedin x3 Wellington x1 Auckland x1 Timaru x1	4
March 2019	1	Medical reason	Auckland	1
April 2019	0			-
May 2019 (to date)	1 (Twins)	NICU Full	Wellington	1

5. How many babies that require care are there in the neonatal unit on average?

45 babies can be accommodated.

6. How long do women and babies remain out of Christchurch for neonatal care before they can return?

On average women and babies remain out of Christchurch for neonatal care for 2-5 weeks before they can return.

7. Has the Canterbury DHB raised concerns about the capacity of the neonatal unit with the Ministry of Health?

Yes the Canterbury DHB has raised concerns about the capacity of the neonatal unit with the Ministry of Health, and they are also informed when we transfer women to another city for care. A Ministry of Health-initiated review of neonatal services is currently underway nationally.

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



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support