

16 November 2020

D. Griffiths
fyi-request-13948-66d23009@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear D. Griffiths

Re: OIA request – Occupancy rate of ICU in NZ hospitals

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 19 October 2020 seeking information about intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy rates from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

Responses to your request are provided below. Please note we are only able to provide information for Waitematā DHB:

What is the maximum bed occupancy in ICUs across all hospitals in New Zealand, in total?

Waitematā DHB has capacity for up to 14 ICU/HDU beds, all at North Shore Hospital. Please note that Waitakere Hospital patients requiring HDU/ICU-level care are transferred to North Shore Hospital for treatment.

What has been the bed occupancy rate (% of beds occupied in ICUs) by week/month [which ever time period data is available] across the same hospitals in question 1 above, for the period 15 March 2020 to 1 October 2020.

Bed occupancy/capacity is related to the number of nurses who are staffed on each shift and not the physical number of beds available. Where more than 100% capacity is indicated below, these have been occasions where additional nursing resource has been required to cover the number of patients admitted.

Our occupancy for the dates requested is as per the following table:

Average occupancy for ICU/HDU by week from 15 March 2020 to 01 October 2020

Date by week	Average occupancy %
March 15 – 21	64.63
March 22 – 28	53.06
March 29 – April 4	49.98
April 5 – 11	70.74
April 12 – 18	77.55
April 19 – 25	61.90
April 26 – May 2	69.39
May 3 – 9	71.43
May 10 – 16	58.50
May 17 – 23	42.86
May 24 – 30	101.36
May 31 – June 6	80.27
June 7 – 13	84.35
June 14 – 20	84.35
June 21 – 27	90.48
June 28 – July 4	93.88
July 5 – 11	88.44
July 12 – 18	105.44
July 19 – 25	101.36
July 26 – August 1	114.29
August 2 – 8	68.70
August 9 – 15	67.34
August 16 – 22	77.55
August 23 – 29	82.99
August 30 – September 5	65.30
September 6 – 12	70.75
September 13 – 19	76.19
September 20 – 26	107.48
September 27 – October 1	88.57

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



Mark Shepherd
Director Provider Healthcare Services
Waitematā District Health Board