

28 February 2022

Paul Blackham



**Via email:** [fyi-request-18361-98464453@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-18361-98464453@requests.fyi.org.nz)

100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003  
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Tēnā koe Paul

### **Official Information Act Request – OIA 14116 Number of People With Heart Related Issues**

On 28 January 2022, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

I am seeking the number of people that have visited any/all hospitals and doctor's surgeries within the WDHB for any/all heart related issues, (including but not limited to pericarditis, myocarditis, heart attacks and strokes). The data requested is for the 11 month period from February 2021 until December 2021 inclusive, displayed in month by month format, and compared to the monthly data for the previous three years.

#### **Whanganui District Health Boards response:**

**I am seeking the number of people that have visited any/all hospitals and doctor's surgeries within the WDHB for any/all heart related issues, (including but not limited to pericarditis, myocarditis, heart attacks and strokes). The data requested is for the 11 month period from February 2021 until December 2021 inclusive, displayed in month by month format, and compared to the monthly data for the previous three years.**

The data in the table below includes all events in the specified timeframe, plus events in the preceding three years, by month. Both the number of patients (unique people) and the number of contacts (simple volumes) have both been included.

The data includes all inpatient and ED attendances which are coded with an ICD10 code which represents a circulatory condition. The definition is quite broad, including (but not limited to) heart disease, strokes, hypertension, myocardial infarctions, angina, etc. Given that patients can be admitted from ED into the general hospital and both represent separate events in the DHB system, these events may be counted twice in the Contacts column.

The volumes also include outpatient attendances for specific cardiac related clinics (such as cardiac rehab and cardiology testing). Outpatient event diagnoses are far less structured; therefore, the clinic was used as a proxy.

Data requested around general practice visits is not available to the DHB; however, we are relatively confident that this data is not collected with any accuracy in general practice, and they are unlikely to be able to respond.

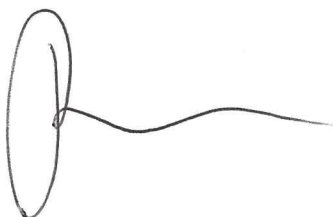
Data in February 2018 is incomplete due to a patient management system change, but all other months are complete.

	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Contacts	Patients	Contacts	Patients	Contacts	Patients	Contacts	Patients
Jan			411	303	460	360	449	370
Feb	207	165	634	410	408	258	335	246
Mar	321	218	385	274	322	238	428	288
Apr	352	230	419	262	191	137	344	241
May	495	371	570	418	309	228	516	404
Jun	373	258	434	307	495	400	437	257
Jul	464	368	503	333	462	294	419	307
Aug	431	327	523	387	536	375	515	365
Sep	388	276	404	293	427	309	356	242
Oct	525	341	420	262	479	288	452	275
Nov	617	437	476	350	502	357	513	383
Dec	332	248	392	260	389	259	311	227

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at [anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz](mailto:anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz)

Ngā mihi



**Russell Simpson**  
Kaihautū Hauora - Chief Executive  
Whanganui District Health Board