

25 March 2022

Luke

By email: fyi-request-18459-22d9c32b@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202203332

Dear Luke

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your follow up request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 28 February 2022 for information relating to COVID-19 and hospitalisations. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

“Please explain why the Ministry of Health is unable to ascertain whether any hospital patients are being treated for COVID-19 or not.”

The Ministry is enhancing its reporting processes for those cases that have required hospital level care. You may wish to contact the district health boards (DHBs) who do aggregate coding data after discharge. Contact details for the DHBs are available at: www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/district-health-boards/district-health-board-websites.

The Ministry continues to improve on its reporting of national hospitalisation data related to COVID-19. In February, the Ministry began comprehensive reporting of all cases in hospital with COVID-19 in the Northern region made up of the Northland DHB and the three Auckland metro DHBs. It is planned to expand this approach to other DHBs during March.

Reason for admission is not routinely coded and provided to the Ministry. However, the Ministry is working to provide this information based on discharge data.

You may also be interested in the following link which provides demographic details of cases that have been hospitalised at: www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-case-demographics.

“Please also release all email correspondence that was generated as a result of responding to this Information Request (Ref: H202201122).”

Please refer to the attached email correspondence within the scope of your request. Duplicate information has been identified and removed accordingly. Please note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons and section 9(2)(k) to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jan Torres', written in a cursive style.

Jan Torres
Manager, OIA Services
Office of the Director-General