



# West Coast District Health Board

## Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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23 March 2017

Antony Andrews

Email: [fyi-request-5349-24f63723@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5349-24f63723@requests.fyi.org.nz);

Dear Mr Andrews

### Official Information Act request WCDHB 8907

We refer to your email of 9 February 2017, seeking information under section 12 of the Official Information Act (1982) as follows:

***Could you please provide the total number of hospital beds from 2006 to 2016 at West Coast District Health Board? Yearly count will be great. Please note that the bed volume is the count of physical bed capacity (i.e. bed spaces). The count includes beds, roller beds, lazy-boys etc. The data does not include patient occupancy volumes.***

### Response

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for our bed space numbers as they have been recorded from internal stocktakes at various fixed time points of actual physical beds and bed spaces.

Please note that hospital bed spaces may be present as part of the fixture of a ward layout, but with no beds physically located within them at times.

Please also note that rather than being a fixed number of bed spaces in all cases, some physical beds and bed spaces in our wards are used flexibly and variously repurposed within our hospitals to meet the changes of seasonal demand over the years (for example, with medical conditions peaking during winter months but relatively lighter during summer periods).

As such, the numbers of resourced beds, physical beds, and bed spaces have all varied from time to time in any given year and the data below may therefore not match Ministry of Health annual stocktakes of bed numbers at the particular time that these are surveyed. Resourced beds, physical beds, and physical bed spaces, are three distinct sets of separate information. We have provided actual physical bed spaces as per your request.

**Table one:**

WCDHB Hospital / Health Service	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Grey Base Hospital Total Bed Spaces (excluding recovery beds in our main operating theatre)	142	124	124	124	122
Buller Health Total Bed Spaces (excluding rest home beds)	32	32	32	32	32
Reefton Health Total Bed Spaces (excluding rest home beds)	10	10	10	10	10
<b>Total Hospital Beds for West Coast DHB</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>164</b>

The decrease in available bed spaces in Grey Base Hospital between 2012 and 2013 followed in the aftermath of a comprehensive seismic risk assessment undertaken in 2012 in the wake of the Christchurch earthquakes, that found part of two ward spaces at the Hospital were significantly earthquake prone structures, so were shut down immediately for safety.

We do not hold any definitive record on the numbers of physical beds or bed spaces that were in place prior to 2012. We are therefore declining providing data for the period 2006 - 2011 under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act; i.e.: that the information requested is not held by West Coast DHB.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping underline.

Carolyn Gullery  
**General Manager**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support.**