

9 November 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 20 October 2021. You requested the following maternity service information.

Please note, while Taranaki DHB cannot provide data back to 2010 as this was not captured electronically, we are able to provide some of the requested information for the period of 2015 to 2020.

- *Data on the raw number of caesarean sections conducted at the DHB broken down like this:*

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Planned							
Emergency							

Please see *Table 1* under the *Appendix*.

- *Data on the number of episiotomies conducted at the DHB since 2010, broken down by year*
- *Data on the number of epidurals conducted at the DHB since 2010, broken down by year*

Please see *Table 2* under the *Appendix*.

- *Data on the number of births at DHB facilities, broken down by year, since 2010*

Please see *Table 3* under the *Appendix*.

- *Data on the average number of FTE core midwifery positions (NOT community midwives) employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2010*
- *Data on the average number of FTE community midwifery positions employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2010*
- *Data on the average number of FTE obstetrician positions/ average hours worked by obstetricians employed at the DHB per year, broken down by year since 2010*

Please see the requested information under *Table 4* in the *Appendix*.

Continued...

- *Data on spending/cost of maternity services per year, broken down by year since 2010 (NOT including building maintenance and upgrades, just staffing and the costs of actually running the services)*

Please see *Table 5* under the *Appendix*.

- *Data on the number of code reds that have occurred at the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2010*
- *Data on the number of code blacks that have occurred at the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2010*

Taranaki DHB is unable to fully answer the above request as this level of information is not captured electronically.

- *Data on the average number of beds within the DHB maternity unit/birthing unit/maternity service per year, broken down by year since 2010*

Please see *Table 6* under the *Appendix*.

- *Data on maternal deaths during or shortly before/after labour (within 7 days), broken down by year since 2010*
- *Data on deaths of babies during or shortly before/after birth (within 7 days), broken down by year since 2010*

Taranaki DHB is unable to fully answer the above request as this level of information is not captured electronically.

I trust the above information answers your OIA request.

Kind regards



Gillian Campbell
Chief Operating Officer

Enc.

Appendix

Table 1

Caesareans	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Planned	185	182	185	219	208	232
Emergency	161	162	174	213	179	225

Table 2

Epidural/Episiotomy	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Epidural for labour and delivery	230	223	239	213	190	293
Episiotomy	101	95	83	102	100	94

Table 3

Births by Hospital	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Base Hospital – New Plymouth	1299	1269	1263	1405	1236	1323
Hawera Hospital	104	77	84	88	49	68

Table 4

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Core midwives							
FTE	15.6	20.3	20.5	19.6	17.9	13.5	13.7
Community Midwives Paid by DHB							
FTE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Obstetrician							
FTE	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Hours	1386.7	1040	1466.4	1664	1368.5	1367.6	1356.62

Please note:

1. The TDHB does not employ community midwives.
2. Where we have a value of less than 5 we report this as <5 as otherwise it is potentially possible to identify the employees.

Caveats that apply to this data:

1. The Average number of FTE is interpreted to be the number of FTE that is actively employed throughout the year in full time equivalents. For example an employee contracted at 0.6 FTE and working 3 months of the year would be the same as 0.15 FTE. This is then summed for all employees active in the year, providing a reflective view of actual and effective FTE.
2. Any midwives working on a casual basis carry 0 FTE and therefore are excluded from the core calculations.
3. Average hours worked is based on the total hours worked, divided by the number of employees.

Table 5

The total cost of all Maternity purchase units excluding building depreciation and Capital Cost is as follows:

Fiscal Year	Cost
2015	10,347,510
2016	10,481,257
2017	10,904,314
2018	11,188,655
2019	11,825,733
2020	13,730,714
2021	15,455,996

Table 6

Beds	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
Base Hospital – New Plymouth	18	18	18	18	18	18
Hawera Hospital	4	4	4	4	4	4