

9 March 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Official Information Act**

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 15 February 2022. You have requested the following information around our Board's policy regarding media access to DHB premises under COVID-19.

- 1. What was your board's policy regarding media access to your DHB premises to interview staff and patients, and take photographs and video before any COVID-19 restrictions were introduced?***
- 2. Were any new conditions for media access introduced as a result of COVID-19?***
- 3. If so, how was this decision made and why?***
- 4. What were the new conditions and how did they affect access at different alert levels and under the current traffic light system?***
- 5. What is your board's intentions for the future regarding media access under COVID-19?***
- 6. Do you feel your media access rules are consistent with the media's responsibilities to report accurately and promptly on issues, and also with the right of patients and staff to interact freely with the media if they consent?***

Taranaki DHB's media guide is publicly available on our website [Media Guide \(tdhb.org.nz\)](http://Media Guide (tdhb.org.nz)). It outlines the process for media requests regarding access to our hospitals to cover stories, interview patients and/or staff, and photography.

Our media policy has not changed during the various levels and phases of COVID-19 but any media requests to access our facilities during the current Omicron outbreak require health screening on entry and Infection Prevention & Control and Health & Safety compliance.

Taranaki DHB regularly reviews its media and communications policy to ensure it meets expectations within the current climate. The Communications Team is responsible for liaising between the media and patients and staff. Depending on our current visitor policy, the Communications Team will liaise with the patient and staff to obtain consent for interviews and ensure there is a suitable location for this to be conducted. Media must always be accompanied onsite by a member of the Communications Team.

If staff wish to proactively promote Taranaki DHB services in the media or invite media to attend a Taranaki DHB event, they must contact the Communications Team who will assess the request and provide advice and support as appropriate.

I trust the above information answers your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beth Findlay-Heath', written in a cursive style.

**Beth Findlay-Heath**  
Communications Manager