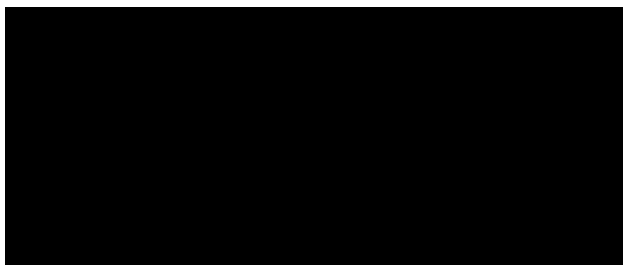


12 August 2022



Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Official Information Act**

I am responding on behalf of Te Whatu Ora Taranaki (formally Taranaki District Health Board (DHB)) to your OIA request of 19 July 2022. You have requested the following information:

1. *All original communications from health officials including emails notifying of a cancelling, postponement or otherwise reduction in outpatient services or planned care for the months of June, July or August 2022 and any communications where Ministry officials, the Minister or Minister's office were made aware of these actions.*

Over this period Te Whatu Ora Taranaki communicated our escalation status via social media and media statement (under the *Appendix* please find a copy of the media statement).

2. *What was the ED wait time for the month of July 2022 expressed against the 95% health target?*

79.9%

3. *How many were waiting for First Specialist Assessment against the FSA health target of 4 months at the end of July and what is the average, median and longest wait time?*

Please see Table 1 in the *Appendix*.

4. *How many were waiting for treatment against the health target of treatment within 4 months at the end of July 2022 and what is the average, median and longest wait time?*

Please see Table 2 in the *Appendix*.

5. *How many ED presentations were there in each July for the past 5 years?*

Please see Table 3 in the *Appendix*.

6. *Are tents being used for ED triage or observation and if so which of these and at which hospitals?*

At Te Whatu Ora Taranaki we have transported in a portable portacom. This is used for orange and

yellow stream respiratory patients. It is fully equipped with heating, IT equipment, Wifi, monitoring stations, medications, emergency equip, etc.

7. *Has been answered by HNZ.*

No response required by Te Whatu Ora Taranaki.

8. *How many cancellations have there been, as recorded in weekly Covid tracking reports supplied to the Ministry, from Aug 2021 to June 30 2022 including but not limited to the following categories:*

Please see Table 4 in the *Appendix*.

9. *How many cases of flu has the DHB had every month in 2022 and how does that compare to the same months over the past 5 years?*

Please see Table 5 in the *Appendix*.

10. *Any letters or correspondence in the past year to June 2022 from the Board or CEO to Ministry Officials or the Minister or his Office expressing concern for ED wait times, planned care wait list, outpatient cancellations or health workforce shortages.*

No correspondence was sent from the Board or CEO to Ministry Officials or the Minister or his Office expressing concern for ED wait times, planned care wait list, outpatient cancellations or health workforce shortages.

I trust this information answers your OIA request.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Te Whatu Ora Taranaki ([www.tdhub.org.nz](http://www.tdhub.org.nz)) website no less than one week after the response has been provided to you. Any personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. Te Whatu Ora Taranaki will endeavour to resolve any concerns you should raise but, subject to any legal grounds for withholding, ultimately reserves the right to publish any information.

Kind regards



Katy Sheffield  
**Acting Chief Operating Officer**

Enc.

## Appendix

### Media Release

Issued: 11/07/22

#### **Taranaki Hospitals restricted visitor policy restarted**

Critical clinical staff shortages due to illness has caused Taranaki Base and Hāwera hospitals to return to restricted visitor numbers and a reduce planned care services from Tuesday, July 12, for at least the next two weeks of the July school holidays.

The visitor restrictions include one visitor per patient, no visitors under 16 unless with a prior appointment, and no admittance of visitors if they are unwell, says Te Whatu Ora Taranaki's acting chief operating officer, Katy Sheffield.

"There will be exceptions on compassionate grounds on a case by case basis for Maternity and the Children's Ward for example where parents and support people may be required," explains Sheffield. "We will also take into consideration support for palliative patients, and ward managers and or lead clinicians may approve other exceptions based on other compassionate grounds."

"We appreciate that having whanau present is an important part of patient wellbeing and we will be working with whanau to balance patient health and safety measures to keep our hospitals functioning."

The visitor restrictions are due to steadily rising Covid-19, influenza, RSV as well as gastroenteritis cases in the community which are having an impact on hospital staff who are themselves falling sick, or having to stay home to look after sick whanau members.

"As part of our infection prevention control, visitor restrictions will help keep our staff and patients safe by minimising the risk of these virus' spreading in the hospitals."

Since the start of last weekend, both New Plymouth base and Hawera hospitals were nearing 100% occupancy with more pressure on beds expected as the region moves towards the expected peak in Covid-19 and influenza numbers around July 19.

"The Taranaki community can play a key role in easing the pressure on the region's hospitals by getting vaccinated, getting a RAT test and staying home if you feel unwell, good personal hygiene such as regular hand washing and coughing or sneezing into your elbow, wearing masks where necessary and social distancing."

"Unfortunately, due to staff shortages, we are also using our planning to look at our non-acute and deferrable services and will be reducing activity in several areas to redirect capacity as needed. Delivery of services will be assessed and scaled depending on bed and staff capacity and is likely to result in some health service cancellations."

ENDS

Page | 3

**Table 1**

*How many were waiting for First Specialist Assessment against the FSA health target of 4 months at the end of July and what is the average, median and longest wait time?*

Patients Waiting for FSA: July 2022	3,216
Average Waiting Time (in days)	416
Median Waiting Time (in days)	333
Longest Waiting Time (in days)	990

**Table 2**

*How many were waiting for treatment against the health target of treatment within 4 months at the end of July 2022 and what is the average, median and longest wait time?*

Patients Waiting for Treatment within 4 Months July 2022	2,174
Average Waiting Time (in days)	184
Median Waiting Time (in days)	149
Longest Waiting Time (in days)	1,047

**Table 3**

*How many ED presentations were there in each July for the past 5 years?*

Year Month	ED Presentations
Jul-18	3,928
Jul-19	4,419
Jul-20	3,922
Jul-21	4,278
Jul-22	4,193

**Table 4**

*How many cancellations have there been, as recorded in weekly Covid tracking reports supplied to the Ministry, from Aug 2021 to June 30 2022 including but not limited to the following categories:*

Type	COVID Cancellations (Aug 2021 to June 30 2022)
Planned Care Interventions Inpatient cancellations (number of patients impacted) - PCI Inpatient defn	84
Planned Care Interventions Outpatient cancellations (number of patients impacted) - PCI Minor Procedures defn	41
Planned Care Interventions Community Setting cancellations (number of patients impacted) - PCI Minor Procedures defn	0
Non 'Planned Care Interventions' Elective/Arranged cancellations (number of patients impacted)	0
First Specialist Assessments & Follow Up cancellations (number of patients impacted)	24
Other Outpatient cancellations (number of patients impacted)	265
Endoscopy procedure cancellations (number of procedures impacted)	106
Diagnostic radiology scan cancellations - CT, MRI, Ultrasound (number of scans cancelled)	1,356
Acute Care Inpatient cancellations (number of patients impacted)	0

**Table 5**

*How many cases of flu has the DHB had every month in 2022 and how does that compare to the same months over the past 5 years?*

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018			2	3		3	5	19	18	8	4	
2019			3	17	22	52	51	16	12	3	1	1
2020	4	3	4	3		1	2	2		2	1	
2021		1		1		1						
2022					3	84	80					