

6 May 2021

[REDACTED]

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD
Te Poari Hauora o Whanganui

100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Official Information Request- OIA 13445 Ambulance Response Plan

The Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB) has been advised to make a partial transfer of your request to Ministry of Health on 21 April 2021 under Section 14 of the OIA. You requested the following information:

1. How many currently registered flight nurses are employed by the DHB?
(DHB to answer).
2. What is the average remuneration of currently registered flight nurses employed by the DHB by qualification and seniority bands?

(TAS recommends remuneration to be interpreted as base salary for consistency.)

(If the numbers of flight nurses are low, then providing average salaries by 'qualification and seniority bands' may identify individual salaries. We recommend if numbers are low that a breakdown of the data can be safely refused on privacy grounds and any data, whether it is the exact average or a range, just be an overall one for flight nurses.)

3. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, how many flight hours have been charged to the DHB for inter hospital transfers by fixed wing aircraft?
(DHB to answer)
4. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, how many flight hours have been charged to the DHB for inter hospital transfers by rotary wing aircraft?
(Transfer to Ministry of Health -transfer request under way)
5. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, how much has the DHB spent with third parties for inter hospital transfers by fixed wing aircraft?
(DHB to answer)

Third parties can include:

1. Other DHB flight service
 2. Non-DHB flight service e.g. NZAAS, SJA, Rotary with ICP (one of three providers)
6. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, how much has the DHB spent with third parties for inter hospital transfers by rotary wing aircraft?
(DHB to answer-re third parties -could be broken down as above)

7. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, what is the total number of flights for each destination for inter hospital transfers for fixed wing aircraft?
(DHB to answer)
8. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, what is the total number of flights for each destination for inter hospital transfers for rotary wing aircraft?
(DHB to answer)
9. What metrics does the DHB use to measure service performance of service providers providing inter hospital transfer services to the DHB for fixed wing aircraft?
(DHB to answer)
10. What metrics does the DHB use to measure service performance of service providers providing inter hospital transfer services to the DHB for rotary wing aircraft?
(Transfer to Ministry of Health -request under way)
11. What business rules or agreements are in place with other DHBs for cost sharing for interhospital transfers for fixed wing aircraft?
(DHB to answer)
12. What business rules or agreements are in place with other DHBs for cost sharing for interhospital transfers for rotary wing aircraft?
(Transfer to Ministry of Health-request under way)
13. What advice has the DHB provided to the Simpson Review team relating to patient transfers by aircraft?
(DHB to answer)
14. What growth forecasts has the DHB completed or commissioned relating to inter hospital transfer demand?
(DHB to answer)
15. Who is the DHB currently under contract with to provide inter hospital transfer by aircraft, when does the contract expire and what right of renewals exist within the contract?
(Partial Transfer to Ministry of Health to answer for rotary-transfer request under way).

(DHB to answer for fixed wing)

The Whanganui District Health Board response:

1. How many currently registered flight nurses are employed by the DHB?
 - 14
2. What is the average remuneration of currently registered flight nurses employed by the DHB by qualification and seniority bands?
 - Community Step 6-8 \$77,443 - \$82,957
3. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, how many flight hours have been charged to the DHB for inter hospital transfers by fixed wing aircraft?
 - We are unable to provide this information as it is not captured regularly. To gather this data, it would require pulling invoices for the last three years which would be time and resource intensive.
4. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, how many flight hours have been charged to the DHB for inter hospital transfers by rotary wing aircraft?
(Transfer to Ministry of Health -transfer request under way)

5. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, how much has the DHB spent with third parties for inter hospital transfers by fixed wing aircraft?

Fixed Wing - Third Party

2018	\$ 434,523.17
2019	\$ 390,640.06
2020	\$ 396,283.24
Total	\$ 1,221,446.47

6. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, how much has the DHB spent with third parties for inter hospital transfers by rotary wing aircraft?

Rotary Third Party

2018	\$ 19,947.00
2019	\$ 167,634.96
2020	\$ 140,754.71
Total	\$ 328,336.67

7. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, what is the total number of flights for each destination for inter hospital transfers for fixed wing aircraft?

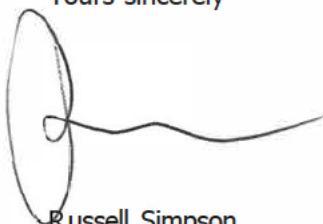
FLIGHT TOTALS (patient no's)	2018	2019	2020
WHANGANUI	528	604	548
AUCKLAND	7	0	6
BAY OF PLENTY	1	2	6
CANTERBURY	0	1	2
STH CANTERBURY	2	1	1
CAPITAL & COAST	6	16	10
COUNTIES MANUKAU	0	0	0
HAWKES BAY	0	5	2
HUTT VALLEY	2	1	0
LAKES DISTRICT	1	4	2
MID CENTRAL	30	21	45
NELSON-MARLBOROUGH	12	56	114
NORTHLAND	3	2	2
SOUTHERN DHB	0	0	0
TAIRAWHITI DHB	0	0	0
TARANAKI	83	126	93
WAIKATO	2	2	7
WAIRARAPA	0	3	9
WAITEMATA	2	1	0
WEST COAST	0	1	1
WHANGANUI DHB:	528	604	548
OTHER DHB's	151	242	300
TOTAL FLIGHTS:	679	846	848

8. For each of the last 3 complete financial years, what is the total number of flights for each destination for inter hospital transfers for rotary wing aircraft?
- We are unable to provide this information as it is not captured regularly. To gather this data, it would require pulling invoices for the last three years which would be time and resource intensive.

9. What metrics does the DHB use to measure service performance of service providers providing inter hospital transfer services to the DHB for fixed wing aircraft?
- Service providers must meet the terms of the contract for performance, which include:
 1. Responding to requests for service within one hour (or greater when agreed upon); shall use its best endeavours to arrange alternate provider if unable to provide service within specified time period
 2. Being available 24/7 with no limitation of service
 3. Ensuring the aircraft is regularly maintained and compliant with industry standards and requirements
 4. Operating under industry standards to ensure the safety of all passengers.
10. What metrics does the DHB use to measure service performance of service providers providing inter hospital transfer services to the DHB for rotary wing aircraft?
(Transfer to Ministry of Health -request under way)
11. What business rules or agreements are in place with other DHBs for cost sharing for inter hospital transfers for fixed wing aircraft?
- Nil official rules; however, we work inter-regionally to minimise the amount of empty legs.
12. What business rules or agreements are in place with other DHBs for cost sharing for inter hospital transfers for rotary wing aircraft?
(Transfer to Ministry of Health-request under way)
13. What advice has the DHB provided to the Simpson Review team relating to patient transfers by aircraft?
- No advice has been provided to the Simpson Review team relating to patient transfers by aircraft.
14. What growth forecasts has the DHB completed or commissioned relating to inter hospital transfer demand?
- Nil
15. Who is the DHB currently under contract with to provide inter hospital transfer by aircraft, when does the contract expire and what right of renewals exist within the contract?
(Partial Transfer to Ministry of Health to answer for rotary-transfer request under way).
- Air Wanganui provide inter hospital transfer by aircraft (for whom the WDHB Flight Team provide the nursing resource); contract renewal is now underway.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OJA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz.

Yours sincerely



Russell Simpson
Chief Executive