



4 August 2020



Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information regarding COVID-19 border control on our clinical workforce.

- *What percentage of your usual clinical workforce is overseas-trained?*

We are unable to provide the information requested without reviewing individual personnel files. A clinician may have obtained their original health qualification in New Zealand and subsequently obtained further training and experience overseas. Gaining overseas work experience and undertaking overseas based training is a common form of professional development across our clinical workforce.

All registered health professionals are required to satisfy the registration requirements of their relevant professional body eg Medical Council, Nursing Council. This is required irrespective of their training history.

In view of the substantial research and collation required to extract the information requested I have decided to refuse this part of your request in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. You have a right to complain to the Ombudsman about my decision.

- *If possible, please provide percentages of overseas-trained staffers in each of these categories: doctors, nurses, midwives, and allied health, science and technical professionals*

Please see above

- *What impact do you expect border restrictions to have on the DHB workforce over the next year?*

COVID-19 and border restrictions have had no particular impact on Northland DHB. District health boards have been working with Immigration New Zealand to allow clinicians to travel to and work in New Zealand. Interest from overseas-based clinicians in our vacancies is strong. This includes New Zealand citizens currently working overseas and wishing to return home as well as clinicians interested in relocating to New Zealand.

- *Are there specialities likely to be under pressure as a result of border restrictions? For example, because there is a small workforce in New Zealand or because of overseas training needs. If so, which specialties?*

Specialties under pressure have remained the same pre and post COVID-19. Midwives, psychologists and psychiatrists have always been a challenge to recruit.

- *Is your DHB currently recruiting for any clinical positions which you cannot fill with New Zealand applicants?*

Northland DHB recruits in an international market. We are currently advertising 37 clinical positions (see our website www.northlanddhb.org.nz). We also utilise the Kiwi Health Jobs site (www.kiwihealthjobs.com) and Facebook. This means that all the positions we advertise are directed to both a local and international audience.

We expect that with the increased interest in clinicians relocating or returning to New Zealand we will see increased interest in our advertised positions.

- *If so, how many, and what is/are the positions?*

Please see above.

- *Have you had any overseas-trained and recruited clinicians cut contracts short and return home because of Covid?*

No

- *If so, how many, and in what category (doctor, nurse...)?*

Please see above

- *Anything else you wish to add.*

No

Northland DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist public understanding of how we deliver our services. This includes proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been provided to you. Personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be publicly available we will consider your views.

If you have any questions regarding Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact Liz Inch, Communications Manager, in the first instance. Liz can be contacted by e-mail at liz.inch@northlanddhb.org.nz , by telephone on (09) 430 4100 ext 60518 or 021 730 543.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nick Chamberlain
Chief Executive