



19 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about hospital admissions for children in care.

- *What is the DHB's policy regarding children in care being a. admitted to hospital and b. admitted to hospital in lieu of a care placement?*

All children who present at our hospital facilities - Whangarei, Dargaville, Kawakawa/Bay of Islands or Kaitaia hospitals - are assessed and admitted according to clinical need.

- *Are children in care admitted to hospitals if placements cannot be found?*

Children in care are not admitted to hospital if there is no clinical or medical reason for their admission.

- *How many children in care are currently in hospital in the DHB?*
- *Are there any children in care currently in hospital in the DHB?*
- *Please provide figures for the past 5 years showing the number of children in care admitted to a DHB hospital, length of stay and reason for being admitted to hospital.*

This information is not held in a central database. Whether a child is in care would only be noted in individual patient files. In order to obtain this information all paediatric hospital admission clinical records would need to be reviewed requiring substantial time and resource. I have therefore 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 this decision.

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 Northland DHB's Communications Manager, in the first instance at communications@northlanddhb.org.nz .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian McKenzie', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ian McKenzie
Acting Chief Executive