

22 November 2021



[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about Northland DHB's ICU capacity.

At the Health Committee meeting on 24 August 2021, the Director-General of Health said that New Zealand has a lower rate of ICU beds per capita than other countries, such as Australia. He also said that ICU beds have been freed up and there was currently 50% capacity available. Under the Official Information Act 1982, would you please provide details on:

- 1. How Northland DHB is freeing up beds?*
- 2. To what extent is contracting out elective surgery to the private sector being increased?*

Northland DHB continues to closely monitor the current COVID-19 outbreak and the potential impact on hospital services, including inpatient beds. We are working closely with our Northern region DHB partners around demand and capacity modelling. We have developed step up plans which will require a phased reduction in planned activity, including surgery. Northland has limited bed stock and therefore will be reliant on freeing up beds through reduced levels of planned surgery.

Northland DHB ordinarily accesses private sector capacity to support elective surgery delivery and these arrangements remain in place. Part of our usual business model includes maximising all available private capacity made available to Northland DHB on a short notice or ad hoc basis.

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 queries about Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact me

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Chamberlain', written over a light green circular watermark.

Dr Nick Chamberlain
Chief Executive