



12 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about mental health facilities.

1. *Copies of documents created since the start of 2019 that relate to the condition, performance and adequacy of specialist mental health facilities managed by the DHB.*

If it helps to refine my request, I am particularly interested in documents such as reports, briefings and letters that provide an overview of deficiencies in the ability of mental health units to provide adequate treatment for patients with serious mental illness, including factors such as funding, demand, staffing, overcrowding, patient safety and comfort, readmission rates, and the physical state of the facilities.

The Ombudsman undertook an unannounced inspection of Tumanako Inpatient Unit in 2020. The report is publicly available on the Ombudsman's website at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/report-unannounced-inspection-tumanako-mental-health-inpatient-unit-whangarei-hospital>. No other documents relating to the condition performance or adequacy of northland DHB's specialist mental health facilities are held.

2. *Copies of business cases for repairs or upgrades of existing specialist mental health facilities.*

Northland DHB's Specialist Mental Health facility, Tumanako, is eleven years old and no business cases have been prepared relating to repairs, upgrades or replacement.

3. *Copies of business cases for the building of new specialist mental health facilities.*

Please see our response to the preceding question.

4. *Bed occupancy rates in specialist mental health and addiction facilities (broken down by facility if possible and applicable).*

Prior to March 2018 Northland DHB's Specialist Mental Health Inpatient Facility, Tumanako, had 25 beds. Between March and June 2018 an additional four beds (one a month) were opened and the Unit now has 29 beds.

The data listed below provides occupancy rates for the period since the additional beds opened.

2019 85.62%
2020 89.40%
2021 YTD 93.38%

5. *Bed numbers in specialist mental health and addiction facilities (broken down by facility if possible and applicable).*

Please see our response to the previous question.

6. *Unplanned readmission rates in specialist mental health and addiction facilities (broken down by facility if possible and applicable).*

The 28 day unplanned readmission rate for the period since the number of beds in Tumanako increased is listed below.

2019 4.98%
2020 4.68%
2021 (YTD) 3.45%

7. *Funding for specialist mental health and addiction facilities.*

Northland DHB's mental health and addiction services operate in both hospital and community settings. The government funding we receive is not specifically tagged for specialist mental health and addiction facilities. We are therefore unable to provide the information you have requested. I am however able to advise that Northland DHB received the following amounts of ring-fenced mental health service funding in the previous 5 financial years.

2020/21 \$68,000k
2019/20 \$64,696k
2018/19 \$61,007k
2017/18 \$58,633k
2016/17 \$53,910k

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



Ian McKenzie
Acting Chief Executive