

30 May 2022

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s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H202205523

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 21 April 2022 for information relating to bed availability in public healthcare facilities. You specifically requested:

- "1. The total number of beds available monthly in all public healthcare facilities over the past three years (from 2019 to the most recently available information).*
- 2. The total number of beds available monthly in all public healthcare facilities specifically reserved for COVID-19 patient care, over the past three years (from 2019 to the most recently available information).*
- 3. The number of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds available monthly in all public healthcare facilities, over the past three years (from 2019 to the most recently available information).*
- 4. The number of ICU beds available monthly in all public healthcare facilities specifically reserved for COVID-19 patient care, over the past three years (from 2019 to the most recently available information).*
- 5. The number of HDU (High dependency Unit) beds available monthly in all public healthcare facilities, over the past three years (from 2019 to the most recently available information).*
- 6. The number of HDU (High dependency Unit) beds available in all public healthcare facilities specifically reserved for COVID-19 patient intensive care, over the past three years (from 2019 to the most recently available information)."*

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is releasing the requested data as Appendix 1. Please note, this includes the reported number of resourced ward beds and Intensive Care Unit (ICU)/High Dependency Unit (HDU) beds as reported by district health boards (DHBs) each working day. We note there have been changes in reporting methodology and included facilities over time. This includes the exclusion of Starship NICU beds from 1 November 2021, and the exclusion of Burwood and Ashburton Hospitals ward numbers between September 2021 and March 2022.

We note reported bed numbers fluctuate according to demand and patient need. It should also be noted that there are ventilators and ICU-capable beds that can be converted if required to increase capacity. DHBs have identified areas within their facilities where critically ill COVID-19 patients can be cared for, with the necessary equipment and staff trained to support the qualified critical care workforce. In addition, regional co-ordination and support has existed between hospitals as part of the DHB model, and the transfer of patients occurs between units based on clinical status as required.

The Ministry is unable to provide data on ICU and HDU beds separately and does not hold reports on beds specifically reserved for COVID-19 patients. Your request for this information is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

You may wish to contact the DHBs in the regions you are interested in, and they may be able to provide you further assistance relating to hospital and ICU-bed capacity. Their contact details can be found at: [www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/district-health-boards/district-health-board-websites](http://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/district-health-boards/district-health-board-websites).

Please note the Ministry is unable to provide information prior to August 2021, as ward and ICU/HDU information is not collected by the Ministry outside of emergency response periods.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



Robyn Shearer  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**Sector Support and Infrastructure**

## Appendix 1

Number of resourced ward beds and resourced ICU/HDU beds from 24 August 2021 to 4 May 2022.

Excludes weekends, national public holidays, and Christmas/New Year break.

As of 1 November 2021, ADHB stopped including Starship NICU within ICU/HDU bed numbers.

Between September 2021 and March 2022, Burwood and Ashburton Hospital did not report ward bed numbers.

Date	Resourced ward beds	Resourced ICU/HDU beds
24-Aug-21	7,498	336
25-Aug-21	7,633	333
26-Aug-21	7,670	333
27-Aug-21	7,663	330
30-Aug-21	7,708	318
31-Aug-21	7,715	326
1-Sep-21	7,750	326
2-Sep-21	7,802	328
3-Sep-21	7,757	327
6-Sep-21	7,704	326
7-Sep-21	7,740	326
8-Sep-21	7,743	326
9-Sep-21	7,804	326
10-Sep-21	7,793	323
13-Sep-21	7,704	321
14-Sep-21	7,592	322
15-Sep-21	7,572	325
16-Sep-21	7,602	324
17-Sep-21	7,606	325
20-Sep-21	7,576	325
21-Sep-21	7,587	325
22-Sep-21	7,593	325
23-Sep-21	7,562	324
24-Sep-21	7,468	328
27-Sep-21	7,555	322
28-Sep-21	7,589	325
29-Sep-21	7,586	325
30-Sep-21	7,582	325
1-Oct-21	7,561	325
4-Oct-21	7,454	319
5-Oct-21	7,497	325
6-Oct-21	7,601	325
7-Oct-21	7,582	327
8-Oct-21	7,597	325
11-Oct-21	7,488	325
12-Oct-21	7,593	324
13-Oct-21	7,623	319
14-Oct-21	7,495	319
15-Oct-21	7,512	325
18-Oct-21	7,483	324
19-Oct-21	7,546	324
20-Oct-21	7,594	325

Date	Resourced ward beds	Resourced ICU/HDU beds
21-Oct-21	7,621	325
22-Oct-21	7,606	325
26-Oct-21	7,633	325
27-Oct-21	7,653	326
28-Oct-21	7,641	326
29-Oct-21	7,848	326
1-Nov-21	7,537	284
2-Nov-21	7,610	284
3-Nov-21	7,591	284
4-Nov-21	7,630	284
5-Nov-21	7,627	283
8-Nov-21	7,559	280
9-Nov-21	7,157	267
10-Nov-21	7,625	292
11-Nov-21	7,601	292
12-Nov-21	7,629	292
15-Nov-21	7,565	290
16-Nov-21	7,555	292
17-Nov-21	7,655	289
18-Nov-21	7,603	292
19-Nov-21	7,605	291
22-Nov-21	7,574	291
23-Nov-21	7,603	295
24-Nov-21	7,611	292
25-Nov-21	7,621	291
26-Nov-21	7,564	292
29-Nov-21	7,542	290
30-Nov-21	7,581	291
1-Dec-21	7,599	291
2-Dec-21	7,586	293
3-Dec-21	7,593	293
6-Dec-21	7,558	285
7-Dec-21	7,589	293
8-Dec-21	7,553	293
9-Dec-21	7,569	294
10-Dec-21	7,557	294
13-Dec-21	7,501	295
14-Dec-21	7,579	294
15-Dec-21	7,597	294
16-Dec-21	7,579	294
17-Dec-21	7,532	295
20-Dec-21	7,552	293
21-Dec-21	7,586	292
22-Dec-21	7,594	291
10-Jan-22	7,122	278
11-Jan-22	7,287	305
12-Jan-22	7,582	290
13-Jan-22	7,319	288

Date	Resourced ward beds	Resourced ICU/HDU beds
14-Jan-22	7,592	291
17-Jan-22	7,104	278
18-Jan-22	7,560	298
19-Jan-22	7,523	293
20-Jan-22	7,217	275
21-Jan-22	7,553	294
24-Jan-22	7,519	294
25-Jan-22	7,570	294
26-Jan-22	7,385	287
27-Jan-22	7,550	293
28-Jan-22	7,538	293
31-Jan-22	4,205	192
1-Feb-22	7,533	294
2-Feb-22	7,548	293
3-Feb-22	7,616	293
4-Feb-22	7,595	298
8-Feb-22	7,563	294
9-Feb-22	7,614	290
10-Feb-22	7,389	290
11-Feb-22	7,508	294
14-Feb-22	7,512	294
15-Feb-22	7,521	295
16-Feb-22	7,593	296
17-Feb-22	7,585	296
18-Feb-22	7,556	296
21-Feb-22	7,482	297
22-Feb-22	7,532	301
23-Feb-22	7,527	296
24-Feb-22	6,677	301
25-Feb-22	7,509	296
28-Feb-22	7,505	296
1-Mar-22	7,530	296
2-Mar-22	7,524	296
3-Mar-22	7,547	300
4-Mar-22	7,497	299
7-Mar-22	6,635	274
8-Mar-22	7,487	296
9-Mar-22	7,523	296
10-Mar-22	7,494	296
11-Mar-22	7,492	297
14-Mar-22	7,473	299
15-Mar-22	7,502	298
16-Mar-22	7,511	299
17-Mar-22	6,671	299
18-Mar-22	7,733	299
21-Mar-22	6,552	286
22-Mar-22	6,869	270
23-Mar-22	7,748	299

Date	Resourced ward beds	Resourced ICU/HDU beds
24-Mar-22	7,718	299
25-Mar-22	7,532	296
28-Mar-22	7,659	299
29-Mar-22	7,735	301
30-Mar-22	7,755	300
31-Mar-22	7,755	297
1-Apr-22	7,752	297
4-Apr-22	7,858	293
5-Apr-22	7,735	295
6-Apr-22	7,733	300
7-Apr-22	7,946	299
8-Apr-22	7,756	294
11-Apr-22	7,682	296
12-Apr-22	7,770	292
13-Apr-22	7,754	291
14-Apr-22	7,763	297
19-Apr-22	7,555	283
20-Apr-22	7,792	295
21-Apr-22	7,786	295
22-Apr-22	7,793	295
26-Apr-22	7,758	295
27-Apr-22	7,834	295
28-Apr-22	7,779	296
29-Apr-22	7,870	295
2-May-22	7,765	295
3-May-22	7,829	297
4-May-22	7,834	298

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