

28 January 2021

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202100030

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 22 December 2020 for:

"I am writing this email in hopes of attaining valid NZ-based data for our report the encompasses the need to establish a new method to diagnose Sepsis in NZ and as such reducing the burden of sepsis on both our DHB's and communities through proficient intervention.

*I would like to inquire about the possibility of attaining data that disclose how much does sepsis cost our healthcare system/ ACC? Additionally, information such as length of stay in health wards, the cost obtained by the average patient, and the post sepsis overhead rehabilitative cost that is subsequent to treatment.
Any additional relevant sepsis data would be of great insight to our knowledge."*

In 2018/19 there were 4183 publicly funded case-mix hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of Sepsis. These events had an average length of stay of 6.2 days, and a total estimated cost of \$39,671,006.29 with the average estimated cost per event for these hospitalisations is \$10,423.28. Please note, these figures do not include hospitalisations where sepsis was a secondary diagnosis.

The Ministry does not collect cost information on hospitalisations. Therefore, these estimates were calculated using the Weighted Inlier Equivalent Separation methodology. Further information on this method can be found at the below link:
www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/data-references/weighted-inlier-equivalent-separations?mega=Health%20statistics&title=Weighted%20Inlier%20Equivalent%20Separations.

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 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gaynor Bradfield', with a stylized flourish.

Gaynor Bradfield
**Manager, Office of the Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital**