

29/09/2021

Matthew Hooton

By email: [fyi-request-16434-779da22f@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-16434-779da22f@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202110730

Tēnā koe Matthew

### 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 19 August 2021 for information relating to intensive care units (ICU). You specifically requested:

*“... information held by the Ministry on how many people the New Zealand health system (public and private) was capable of providing ICU care for at or around 6pm on Tuesday 17 August 2021, and how many patients were being provided with such care (public and private) at that time. Please also provide all advice provided on Tuesday 17 August to the Government about ICU care.”*

The Ministry does not hold the information you have requested as centrally collated information on ICU capacity is only collected during raised alert levels. Current reporting to the Ministry is based on the number of resourced ICU/high-dependency beds which is the metric used to measure ICU bed capacity in New Zealand. Resourced beds are staffed, have a ventilator, and available to receive a critical patient.

Daily ICU reporting from DHBs restarted on 21 August 2021, showing that there were 393 ICU capable beds in public hospitals in New Zealand.

For advice provided on 17 August 2021 to the Government, the Ministry's DHB Performance and Support directorate has endeavoured to search for any information relating to this part of your request however no information has been found. Therefore, this request is refused in full under section 18(e) as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts, cannot be found.

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**