

31 January 2023

Jai Ganesh

fyi-request-21412-2f27f4e3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Jai

Your Official Information Act request, reference: HNZ00008821

Thank you for your email of 13 December 2022, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Could you please provide for the period 2016 - 2022:

- the number of cases for the Flu and related (Adenovirus , Flu A / B , Rinovirus) in NZ*
- the number of hospitalisations for the same*

broken down by month.”

On 20 December 2022 your request was transferred in part to the Coroner’s office regarding *“the number of deaths of the same.”*

- the number of cases for the Flu and related (Adenovirus , Flu A / B , Rinovirus) in NZ*

Te Whatu Ora is unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Te Whatu Ora staff would have to manually review individual client files. As such, we refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

We have considered whether Te Whatu Ora would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, Te Whatu Ora’s ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

You may find it helpful to refer to the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR), who tracks virus activity and severity in New Zealand: <https://www.esr.cri.nz/our-services/consultancy/flu-surveillance-and-research/>.

You can also refer to the flu tracker <https://info.flutracking.net/>, however please note these rely on self-reporting and therefore may not accurately reflect the total number of flu cases in the community.

- the number of hospitalisations for the same*

Please see **Appendix 1** for influenza publicly funded hospital discharges from 2016 to 2022.

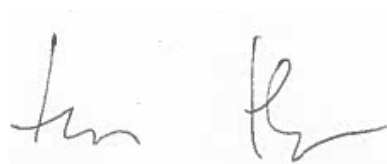
Note: At the time of pulling this data the nominal reporting deadline for hospital discharge data had not yet passed for November 2022, therefore the November may be incomplete.

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Houser', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Kieran Houser
Group Manager – Hospital and Specialist Services