

3 May 2024

Charles Smith

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Tēnā koe Charles

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00042988

Thank you for your email on 4 April 2024 asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Please supply me with a breakdown of the number of infectious diseases physicians in NZ employed or contracted by Health NZ and their FTE.

This should be expressed as the total FTE (full time equivalent) ID Physician (specialist) in each of the 19 districts and then further broken down by the full name of each specialist and their (Infectious Diseases) FTE. The hospital in which they are based should be stated e.g. Middlemore or Hutt and should be the means of categorising the data under the district heading. The total population served by each hospital and by each district should be included.

eg

Auckland district 6.7FTE Population served: 1,543,434

Middlemore 3.2FTE Population served: 454,654

Dr A 1.0

Dr B 0.9

Dr C 0.3

Auckland city 2.1FTE etc etc

I note that at least in one region (Nelson marlborough) ID Physicians contract via a PHO. These type of arrangements should also be included.”

Response

Please see our response to each part of your request.

“Please supply me with a breakdown of the number of infectious diseases physicians in NZ employed or contracted by Health NZ and their FTE.

This should be expressed as the total FTE (full time equivalent) ID Physician (specialist) in each of the 19 districts...”

Please refer to the attached **Appendix 1**, which lists specialist physicians in internal medicine with sub-speciality in infectious disease and report being employed or contracted by Health NZ as at 1 April 2024. The data is sourced from the Medical Council of New Zealand (Council).

Practitioners in regulated professions require an annual practicing certificate (APC) to legally practice in New Zealand. Responsible authorities (such as the Council) are required to provide information on each practitioner with an APC to the Director-General of Health under section 134A of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA).

This information is received and analysed, under delegation from the Director-General of Health, by the Analytics and Forecasting team, National People Services, Health NZ. The Analytics and Forecasting team is required under section 134A(4) of the HPCAA not to release information that could identify individual practitioners.

Note that **Table 1: By District** provides a breakdown of the data by 17 districts, not 19.

Districts, as geographical areas, are based on the address or other location information for each practitioner. Hence, Waitematā, Te Toka Tūmai (Auckland) and Counties Manukau have been aggregated as Auckland Metro, and Capital and Coast and Hutt Valley have been aggregated as Wellington Metro.

“...and then further broken down by the full name of each specialist and their (Infectious Diseases) FTE.”

We are unable to provide you with the names of the internal medicine specialists. This information is withheld under section (9)(2)(a) of the Act, to protect their privacy. As mentioned above, we are also bound under section 134A(4) of the HPCAA not to release information provided to us by responsible authorities, which could identify individual practitioners.

“The hospital in which they are based should be stated e.g. Middlemore or Hutt and should be the means of categorising the data under the district heading.

The total population served by each hospital and by each district should be included.

eg

Auckland district 6.7FTE Population served: 1,543,434

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Auckland city 2.1FTE etc etc”

Please see **Table 1: By District** where we provide the *district* information where practitioners are located. Note that for some practitioners, the Council has supplied multiple locations based on either place of residence, place of work, or other location information. We are unable to provide the *hospital(s)* location for each practitioner without substantial collation or research. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

Please see **Table 2: Resident Total Population Projections, 2023** where we provide the *total population served by each district*. We are unable to provide information on the *total population served by each hospital* and refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by Health NZ.

“I note that at least in one region (Nelson marlborough) ID Physicians contract via a PHO. These type of arrangements should also be included.”

We do not have information on contracting arrangements between infectious disease physicians and primary health organisations. We therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by Health NZ.

How to get in touch

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, Health NZ 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.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Andrew Slater

Chief People Officer

People and Communications