

1 October 2024

Andrew F  
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Kia ora Andrew

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 29 August 2024. You requested:

*In light of recent reporting of systemic healthcare staffing shortages to the public health system, I had a few inquires under the OIA for Worksafe in regards interactions with the Ministry of Health in conducting its legislative function of enforcing safe working conditions for both workers and the general public.*

- 1. Please provide all information, reports, and internal communications over the last five years regarding concerns raised about inadequate staffing in the healthcare sector under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.*
- 2. How many complaints or reports has Worksafe received over the last five years related to inadequate staffing in medical facilities operated by the Ministry of Health? Please provide a breakdown by year and type of complaint (e.g., unsafe working conditions, overwork, lack of sufficient staff, etc.)*
- 3. Please provide data on notifiable incidents reported to Worksafe over the last five years that mention inadequate staffing as a contributing factor. Include the nature of these incidents, outcomes, and any follow-up actions taken.*
- 4. How many investigations has Worksafe conducted in the last five years into incidents or complaints where inadequate staffing was identified as a potential hazard in medical facilities? Please provide details of the findings, outcomes, and any recommendations made.*
- 5. Has Worksafe identified any patterns or trends over the last five years related to inadequate staffing in healthcare facilities in the course of undertaking its investigation or research function? If so, please provide details, including any sector-wide guidance or warnings issued.*
- 6. Please provide details of any enforcement actions taken by Worksafe over the last five years in response to inadequate staffing in medical facilities operated by the Ministry of Health, including any Improvement Notices, Prohibition Notices, or prosecutions.*
- 7. What steps has Worksafe taken to ensure compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 in relation to staffing levels within healthcare facilities as a result of workplace assessments or audits? Include any specific initiatives or audits carried out.*

8. *Please provide data on work-related injuries and illnesses in medical facilities operated by the Ministry of Health over the last five years where inadequate staffing was mentioned as a contributing factor.*

9. *Has Worksafe conducted or reviewed any studies or reports on the impact of inadequate staffing on staff or patient safety in healthcare facilities? If so, please provide copies or summaries of these findings*

10. *What proactive measures has Worksafe recommended as part of its investigation(s) to address the risks associated with inadequate staffing in healthcare facilities? Please include any guidance provided to healthcare employers or industry bodies.*

11. *What recommendations has Worksafe made to the Ministry of Health or healthcare providers to mitigate the risks associated with inadequate staffing, and what actions have been taken in response?*

On 9 September 2024 WorkSafe invited you to refine your request but no response was received.

On 30 September WorkSafe extended the time to respond to your request by 20 working days. A decision on your request is now due by 5 November 2024.

WorkSafe does not hold information relating to the part of the request for *Please provide data on work-related injuries and illnesses in medical facilities operated by the Ministry of Health over the last five years where inadequate staffing was mentioned as a contributing factor.*

This information is more likely to be held by Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora. Accordingly, we have decided under section 14(b)(i) of the Official Information Act to transfer this part of the request to Health New Zealand - Te Whatu Ora. The other parts of the request will remain with WorkSafe.

Please note that Health New Zealand – Te Whatu Ora must decide on the request as soon as practicable, and no later than 20 working days from receipt of this transfer notification.

Nāku noa, nā



Mark Johnson  
**Head of Insights**