

11 January 2018

Health Sector Workers Network

By email to: [fyi-request-6956-52fd1f84@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-6956-52fd1f84@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Health Sector Workers Network

**Re Official Information Request - Shorter stays in ED and observation unit**

I refer to your official information request dated 7 December 2017 for information about Shorter Stays in the Emergency Department and use of the observation and inpatient assessment units.

You asked the following questions:

- 1. What are the percentages of patients presenting to the Emergency Departments that were admitted, discharged or transferred within six hours of presentation for each month of the year July 2016 to June 2017?**
- 2. Please provide any DHB policy concerning guidelines and use of the ED observation unit? By "ED observation unit", we are referring to the usage defined by the Ministry Of Health in the paper Streaming and the use of Emergency Department Observation Units and Inpatient Assessment Units.**
- 3. What percentage of total ED presentations for each month of the year July 2016 to June 2017 utilised the ED Observation unit?**
- 4. What percentage of patients utilising the ED observation unit were discharged home from this location for each month of the year July 2016 to June 2017?**
- 5. What is your DHB's expected length of stay for the patients utilising the ED observation unit?**
- 6. What percentage of patients for each month of the year July 2016 to June 2017 exceeding the length of stay given in question 5?**

The information you have requested is enclosed in the attached Excel spreadsheet.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive