

9 February 2018

Antony Andrews

E-mail: [fyi-request-7110-c83f9f99@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7110-c83f9f99@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Andrews,

**Official Information Act (1982) Request**

I write in response to your Official Information Act Request dated 12 January 2018. You requested the following information:

- **Bed occupancy rates at the public hospital/ hospitals from July 2007 to June 2016.**

Please refer to the attached data for our response. Please note we have provided separate average monthly 0700 hours occupancy rates for Middlemore Hospital, Manukau Surgical Centre and for community facilities for the period requested.

We have based the calculations on total occupancy at 0700 hours per day for the month, and divided by the maximum available physical capacity (beds). However, the number of 'resourced' beds (i.e. staffed and open beds) will fluctuate continuously, to best match available capacity and resources to demand. Resourced capacity is typically not maximum physical capacity.

There is also significant variation from this average occupancy rate on an hourly, daily and seasonal basis, and for different clinical areas. We have listed the clinical areas included in the occupancy calculation in the file. We do note that for total hospital occupancy data, this includes a number of specialist clinical areas (such as Birthing, Intensive Care, Paediatrics and Mental Health facilities), that have different occupancy requirements to 'typical' wards.

We have chosen to also provide details of the average monthly occupancy on Medical and Surgical adult wards, from June 2014 - June 2017 as a useful comparison. You will note these areas have a higher rate of average occupancy.

This is a complex area of hospital operational management, and we are happy to further discuss interpretation of the data provided if you have any questions.

I trust this satisfactorily answers your request.

Yours sincerely



Gloria Johnson

**Chief Executive (Acting)**