

24 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2022013**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 15 February 2022 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

*"I would like to ask the DHB for comment on these questions:*

- The reduction in flights contributed to a 15% drop in emissions between 2018/19 and 2020/21. Is that good news?*
- With the border closed, have senior doctors and management found new ways to conduct international business, conferencing and professional development requirements? If so, will the DHB encourage these new ways as the border re-opens, for climate change reasons?*
- Has the international travel policy been updated (particularly for environmental reasons) since the border closed?*
- The story will note that business class can emit three times the carbon of an economy seat. Can I ask when DHB staff are offered a business class fare? Does the enforced isolation rules of MIQ and self-isolation on return influence this?*

*I will provide readers estimates from the Toitu data, as below:*

***HAWKES BAY DHB (176,110 people)***

***Pre-Covid total: 1250 (tonnes of carbon dioxide)***

***Business: 700***

***Economy: 550***

***Mid-pandemic total: less than 100***

*(If the DHB would like to correct these figures, please let me know)"*

Hawke's Bay District Health Board considers any decrease in emissions to be good news, as it contributes to the DHB's goal of improving sustainability. However, it is important to recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has created unique and unprecedented circumstances, resulting in travel restrictions not experienced before.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen health professionals and management attend international engagements online, such as ZOOM.

Where possible the HBDHB will continue to encourage different ways of working/attending meetings remotely as part of its effort to reduce its carbon footprint.

However, secondments/sabbaticals/training does require travel in many instances, particularly clinical, where professional development and education is hands-on.

The HBDHB has not approved any business-related international travel since the COVID-19 outbreak. However, the DHB did approve international travel (to Fiji) in 2021 for an anaesthetist on humanitarian grounds to assist with surgery in the midst of its outbreak.

The numbers in tonnes for the international travel emissions produced by HBDHB staff is as follows:

Total emissions, staff international air travel FY18/19 (pre-Covid): 1,269 tonnes

Long-haul business: 695 tonnes

Long-haul economy plus: 370 tonnes

Long-haul economy: 9 tonnes

Short-haul economy: 195 tonnes

Total emissions, staff international air travel FY20/21 (mid-pandemic): 0 tonnes

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay District Health Board website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



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