

## Corporate Services



20 January 2022

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021164**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 2 December 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- *How many times has Hawke's Bay Hospital been in 'code red' from January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2020, AND January 1, 2021, to December 1 2021? Please break down by month.*
- *For each time the hospital was in 'code red' how many hours did it last for?*
- *For the timeframes stated above, during each 'code red' day, how many people presented at Hawke's Bay Hospital's emergency department and how many were admitted?*
- *How many elective surgeries were cancelled due to the hospital being in 'code red' during the timeframe as stated above?*
- *For the timeframes stated above, what were the reasons for the hospital being in 'code red'?*

*The information sought in this request is to be used as part of a report by the Hawke's Bay App into how many times Hawke's Bay has been put into 'code red'.*

Hawke's Bay Hospital has an escalation plan to respond to increasing pressures of demand. The escalation plan is 'colour coded' from mauve (where there is more than enough capacity and staff) through to green (where capacity matches demand). Successively higher levels of escalation, yellow and amber through to red, occur when there is the greatest pressure on available resources.

Escalation is a process where patient demand and resource capacity is actively reviewed and managed with appropriate actions being taken to maintain patient and staff safety. The escalation process can occur as a result of a significant trauma event resulting in a number

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#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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of critically unwell patients arriving into ED, through to higher than anticipated levels of ED presentations and the number of people requiring hospital admission as a result.

Regarding question four, please note that a “cancellation” is a postponement of a surgery for a planned care event. If the hospital is in red on *any* part of a day, it is deemed a day with red. Any postponement on a day with red is considered a “cancellation” while the hospital is in red.

It is important to note the status of the hospital fluctuates throughout the day as people are discharged and admitted, so it can move from red to amber and back to green on the same day dependent on demand.

The following table provides a response to your questions:

- Column 1: The total number of times the hospital went into red escalation per month
- Column 2: The total number of hours in ‘red escalation’ per month.
- Column 3: The number of ED presentations based on the time of presentation occurring while the hospital was in red escalation.
- Column 4: Of those presentations the number admitted to wards as a result of the ED visit.
- And the final column, 5, shows the number of elective procedures that were rescheduled the day the hospital was in red escalation.

**Table 1**

Month	No. of instances of red	Duration in Hours	ED Presentations	Admissions	Elective surgeries postponed due to code red status
Jan-17	0	0	0	0	0
Feb-17	0	0	0	0	0
Mar-17	0	0	0	0	0
Apr-17	0	0	0	0	0
May-17	0	0	0	0	0
Jun-17	0	0	0	0	0
Jul-17	0	0	0	0	0
Aug-17	0	0	0	0	0
Sep-17	0	0	0	0	0
Oct-17	0	0	0	0	0
Nov-17	0	0	0	0	0
Dec-17	0	0	0	0	0
Jan-18	2	19.2	430	127	4
Feb-18	0	0	0	0	0
Mar-18	1	0	138	46	2
Apr-18	0	0	0	0	0

May-18	1	0	143	55	0
Jun-18	4	34.7	424	132	3
Jul-18	9	190.7	1883	61	13
Aug-18	6	226.6	572	572	14
Sep-18	11	148.4	1605	565	6
Oct-18	2	25.5	403	143	0
Nov-18	6	45.4	819	291	0
Dec-18	3	47.9	573	195	4
Jan-19	4	44.9	878	258	3
Feb-19	12	137.8	2290	746	5
Mar-19	10	79.1	1315	452	12
Apr-19	9	105.9	1245	458	9
May-19	10	291.3	2034	703	0
Jun-19	11	160.6	2139	734	10
Jul-19	14	124.4	1706	626	3
Aug-19	6	78.4	900	280	2
Sep-19	11	379.9	2901	1007	9
Oct-19	9	125.6	1735	660	0
Nov-19	3	48.6	671	231	0
Dec-19	1	11.4	258	100	0
Jan-20	12	206.6	1822	591	3
Feb-20	1	10.9	277	101	0
Mar-20	1	8.6	123	42	0
Apr-20	0	0	0	0	0
May-20	6	84.9	1082	374	1
Jun-20	12	171.3	2117	731	0
Jul-20	11	222.9	2314	830	9
Aug-20	12	138.2	1723	566	9
Sep-20	18	283.7	3003	946	5
Oct-20	4	93.9	1166	392	8
Nov-20	8	106.1	1441	505	0
Dec-20	2	18.5	459	152	0
Jan-21	11	237.4	1539	473	5
Feb-21	9	84.5	1365	419	3
Mar-21	6	264	704	247	7
Apr-21	4	30.9	548	173	0
May-21	9	162.5	1295	420	3
Jun-21	13	151.9	2145	726	0
Jul-21	15	371.4	2135	703	12
Aug-21	14	167.4	1938	659	1
Sep-21	5	37.3	651	247	0
Oct-21	9	203.8	1164	399	20
Nov-21	8	129.5	1205	392	9
Dec-21	1	0	135	29	7

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 DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RHentschel". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

Rika Hentschel  
Acting Chief Operating Officer

cc: *Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz*  
*oia@hbdhb.govt.nz*