



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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19 June 2018

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RE Official information request WCDHB 9140

We refer to your email dated 21 May 2018 requesting the following information under section 12 of the Official Information Act (the 'Act') from West Coast DHB.

- 1. Record of how many women in labour have been turned away from the maternity ward month on month, for the last five years.**

We are not aware that any women have been turned away from receiving care at the West Coast DHB maternity ward during the last five years.

- 2. What is the reason woman in labour are being turned away from the maternity ward:**
 - a. How many are being turned away because there are no beds?**

No women have been turned away because there are no beds available. We can always admit women at Barclays ward if needed.

- b. How many are being turned away because of lack of staff?**

No women have been turned away because of lack of staff.

- 3. Number of complaints the maternity department has received year on year, for the last five years.**

- 2018 - 1
- 2017 - 1
- 2016 - 1
- 2015 - 0
- 2013-14 - 2

- 4. Number of complaints the maternity department has received for turning woman in labour away year on year, for the last five years.**

We have no record of receiving any complaints related to women in labour being turned away from our maternity ward in the last five years

5. Record of capacity, how many times the maternity ward has been full up to May 2018, year on year for the last five years.

McBrearty Ward operates five maternity beds, but has capacity to extend this when required. In the last five years, there have been nine occasions when the overnight bed use by women exceeded five patients. Of these, eight of the days had six women in care, and there was one occasion where there were seven women in care at one time. This was the maximum. The specific occasions are as follows:

- 2013/14 – seven patients on 27/11/13; and six patients on 27/2/14 and 18/4/14.
- 2014/15 - six patients on 26/9/14, 20/1/15, and 18/6/15
- 2015/16 – no occasions where there were more than five women in care as a maximum.
- 2016/17 – six patients on 27/5/17
- 2017/18 (to 31 May 2017) – six patients on 17/1/18 and 14/3/18.

All other dates during this five year period ranged from 0 to five women in care overnight.

6. Policy on the DHBs responsibility if beds are full or there is limited staff.

If beds are full we use Barclays Ward or Parfit Ward. If limited staff we call staff in.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support