

15 May 2019

[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 06 May 2019. You requested the following information on the hours worked by senior doctors/consultants in our maternity wards.

Responses for CM Health provided services are provided below each of your questions.

Please note that the Middlemore Hospital Women's Health services provides specialist clinical care for women living in South Auckland, and supports in excess of 7,500 women giving birth each year. There are 26 Birthing and Assessment beds, 45 Maternity ward beds (ante and post-natal care), and this number will grow with the opening of additional capacity in 2019. We also have three Primary Birthing Units across the Counties Manukau district.

- 1. How many consultants/ senior doctors are rostered on, and physically present on your hospital maternity wards on Saturdays and Sundays, and between 10pm and 8am during the week?**

At all times, there is one Consultant **on site** at Middlemore Hospital afterhours for Maternity. This includes 24/7 availability on Saturday and Sunday, and overnight between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. during the week.
- 2. If consultants/ senior doctors are rostered on to work in the ward on the weekend, what times do their shifts start and end? (i.e., is there someone there at all times?).**

We have 24/7 Consultant **on site** cover at weekends. The shifts are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. the following day, for both Saturday and Sunday.
- 3. What times are consultants/ senior doctors rostered on until during the week? (i.e., is there someone there at all times?)**

There is always one Consultant rostered 24/7. There are many more Consultants rostered during the weekdays for all clinical inpatient and outpatient activities, these 'usual' shifts are 8 a.m., to 6 p.m.
- 4. Why are/ why aren't consultants/ senior doctors present/ not present on the ward at all times?**

We do have 24/7 cover **on site** to meet the needs of our community and the 24/7 nature of acute and urgent health care services.

5. Are senior doctors/ consultants on call for help on the maternity ward during the weekend, and between 10pm and 8am on weekdays?

In addition to the one Consultant being on-site, we also roster a second Consultant on-call for all after-hours and weekend shifts. The on-call Consultant can be called-in by the on-site Consultant for assistance at any time.

6. How quickly are any on call-doctors expected to be able to be at the hospital?

As we have a Consultant on site 24/7, the second on-call Consultant is expected to be able to be at the hospital within 30-40 minutes.

7. If senior doctors/ consultants are not on the ward at all times, who is available to provide care to women when they are not present? (midwives, junior doctors etc.).

Being a large Obstetrics and Gynaecology service, there are always Registrars and House Officers rostered for 'after-hours' shifts, in addition to Consultants. There also is a comprehensive 24/7 Midwifery Roster, which includes Midwifery Coordinators, and Associate Clinical Midwife Managers positions.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive