

6 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Official information request W18-217

I refer to your official information request dated 23 June 2018.

Request:

- 1) How many non-resident women gave birth in hospitals run by the DHB in the past five years. Please break down numbers by year and hospital.
- 2) Were any non-residents billed by the DHB for the births? If so how many?
- 3) Of those who were billed, how many paid the bill and what was the total each year?
- 4) What was the cost of the most inexpensive and expensive non-resident births for the DHB in the past five years, and were those bills paid?
- 5) Did the DHB sue any of the non-residents for non-payment? If so what was the total sued for each year? Were any cases won and the money paid back?
- 6) What was the legal cost to the DHB of pursuing those birth costs?
- 7) Has the DHB experienced "birth tourists" as other countries do, whereby non-residents give birth in a NZ hospital in an effort to claim residency/citizenship? (Please elaborate)
- 8) Has the DHB ever turned away any expectant mothers because they were non-residents?
- 9) Have any non-residents used fake passports or identification to achieve a free birth?
- 10) Does the DHB run any fraud-type campaigns/hotlines to try and stamp out non-residency birth non-payments/frauds?

Response:

The information you have requested is below.

There has been one non-resident birth in the Wairarapa Hospital in the last 5 years and they were not charged.

The DHB has never turned away an expectant mother because they were non-residents and to the best of our knowledge a non-resident has not used a fake passport or identification to achieve a free birth.

The DHB has not run any campaign/hotlines to try to stamp out non-residency births.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Wairarapa District Health Board website no less than one week after the response has been provided to you. Any personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. The DHB will endeavour to resolve any concerns you should raise but, subject to any legal grounds for withholding, ultimately reserves the right to publish any information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact:

Caroline van Deventer

Communications Administrator

Email: caroline.vanDeventer@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz

Ph: 06 946 9800, ext 5840

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Adri Isbister

Chief Executive