



Southern District Health Board  
Dunedin Hospital  
201 Great King Street  
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DUNEDIN 9054

Chief Executive Officer  
Phone 03-476 9456 Fax 03-476 9450

28 August 2020

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Official Information Act Request**

I refer to your Official Information Act request received on 1 June 2020 in which you specifically requested the following:

- **The total cost to the DHB from Covid-19 hospitalisations, between February 28 and May 27, broken down by the reasons for the costs;**

Southern DHB does not have a detailed costing system. As a result we are unable to specifically identify the COVID-19 admission costs. We have therefore estimated the cost based on the number of days the patient was hospitalised and the intensiveness of the hospitalisation based on the Diagnostic Related Group (DRG) the patient was discharged under, using a National costing system bed day cost. For the 41 bed days in question the admission costs have been estimated at \$120k. This is based on 16 bed day days in Intensive Care, 3.5 days in Emergency, the balance being in Medical / Respiratory wards.

Please note that this is not the cost to Southern DHB of COVID-19. The total cost of COVID-19 is reported to the Ministry of Health each week, the gross cost being approximately \$20 million to 30 June 2020.

- **The total number of Covid-19 patient admissions between February 28 and May 27, broken down by whether they were in HDU, ICU or general/medical beds;**

There was a total of 11 patients hospitalised with Covid-19 spread across 14 admissions. Two of these patients were transferred to Dunedin Hospital from another DHB facility, therefore making it 12 distinct admissions.

Of the 12 admissions, one involved ICU, and the other 11 were to general/medical beds.

- The total number of bed days related to Covid-19 patients;

Dunedin Hospital	23
Southland Hospital	5
Lakes District Hospital	12
Dunstan Hospital	1
<b>SDHB TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>

- The total number of Covid-19 patients who required the support of a ventilator while in hospital under DHB care.

There was one patient who required the support of a ventilator while in hospital under SDHB care.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Office can be contacted on 0800 802 602 or on-line at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>.

Yours sincerely



Chris Fleming  
Chief Executive Officer