

2nd February 2022



Official Information Act Request for – Costs to set up checkpoints in hospital and facilities

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 1st December 2021 by way of transfer from the Office of the Prime Minister, you requested the following information:

- **I request the total cost of every set-up including contractors, security, workforce, hireage, purchases, administration, equipment, computer connections, stationery and any other expense associated with these checkpoints at all hospitals and any other facilities across the nation.**

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

- **I request the total cost of every set-up including contractors, security, workforce, hireage, purchases, administration, equipment, computer connections, stationery and any other expense associated with these checkpoints at all hospitals and any other facilities across the nation.**

CM Health established visitor screening processes throughout the Covid-19 lockdowns to ensure all patients, visitors and staff are safe and our community protected. We developed an entire service to enable this screening programme and either employed staff or used external agencies to support this service.

The costs identified relating to triaging and Covid screening visitors for the Covid-19 Delta outbreak lockdown from July 2021 to November 2021 (December figures unavailable at time of writing) at Middlemore Hospital and other CMDHB sites amounts to \$1,021,754.13. These costs reflect staffing – newly employed and use of bureau staff, use of external security, use of external bureau staff, clinical supplies such as personal protective

equipment (gloves, masks, hand sanitiser etc), telecommunications and information technology such as laptops and tablets, visual material such as posters and banners, uniforms, traffic management, desk protection screens for areas and some equipment.

While a large majority of these costs are personnel costs, a number of the items will become part of business as usual for our organisation.

Screening visitors to our hospitals and facilities has significantly helped safeguard staff, contractors, other visitors and patients from exposure to Covid-19.

I trust this information answers your request. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Apa', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health