



HEALTH QUALITY & SAFETY
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4 May 2021

[REDACTED]

Re: PMMRC DHBs to explain their high mortality and NE rates

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your official information request dated 22 April for a copy of correspondence to DHBs by the Commission, to explain their high mortality and Neonatal Encephalopathy (NE) rates.

The information you have requested is enclosed. This information is from [REDACTED] on behalf of the Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee (PMMRC). The email advises that the (then) soon to be released report identifies those DHBs that have a significantly higher rate of perinatal mortality or neonatal encephalopathy than the national rate. Further detail is provided in the letters attached and sent on 9 February 2021. All DHBs with higher rates of perinatal mortality and NE were notified. These DHBs include:

- Capital Coast District Health Board (CCDHB)
- Northland District Health Board (NDHB)
- Waikato District Health Board (WDHB)
- Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB)

There was one response from a Clinical Director of Obstetrics and PMMRC local coordinator thanking the Commission for their correspondence and asking two questions. These have been resolved with the Neonatal Encephalopathy Working Group (NEWG) Chair (a colleague) within WDHB. The Commission has also spoken with the NEWG Chair, who advised that the WDHB are internally exploring their rate of NE over recent years, paying particular attention to the number of babies who are from within the WDHB versus those babies transferred in from other areas.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that the Commission publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address, or contact details.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]

Nāku noa nā



Dr Janice Wilson
Chief Executive

Enclosed:

Document 1: CCDHB NE Rate significantly higher than the national rate email from the Commission

Document 1a: Letter to CCDHB Chief Executive from [REDACTED]

Document 2: NDHB NE Rate significantly higher than the national rate email from the Commission

Document 2a: Letter to NDHB Chief Executive from [REDACTED]

Document 3: WDHB NE Rate significantly higher than the national rate email from the Commission

Document 3a: Letter to WDHB Chief Executive from [REDACTED]

Document 3b: Response from Clinical director obstetrics WDHB

Document 4: CMDHB NE Rate significantly higher than the national rate email from the Commission

Document 4a: Letter to CMDHB Chief Executive from [REDACTED]