

28 July 2022

Phil Pennington  
Email: Phil.Pennington@rnz.co.nz

Tēnā koe Phil,

**Your Official Information Act request, reference H202206550:**

Thank you for your email of 18 May 2022. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 16 June 2022 Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand extended the time limit to respond to your request to 14 July 2022. I shall quote and respond to each part of your request below.

*The review of DSAs*

*The programme – draft, interim or final, at whatever stage it is at, or an accurate comprehensive summary*

*The advice – limited to IL3 and IL4 clinical services buildings only, that provide services to patients (i.e. not admin)*

An initial review of seismic assessments of hospital building was undertaken by Kestrel Group in 2019 which provided an input to the Ministry of Health's June 2020 Current State Assessment report which is publicly available here: [www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/national-asset-management-programme-district-health-boards-report-current-state-assessment9june2020.pdf](http://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/national-asset-management-programme-district-health-boards-report-current-state-assessment9june2020.pdf).

Kestrel Group was commissioned by the Health Infrastructure Unit (now the Infrastructure and Investment Group for Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand) in March 2021 to build upon this previous work. This work included summarising the key seismic information held on hospital buildings and developing a framework for categorising the seismic risk of existing hospital buildings.

Te Whatu Ora are planning to publish the technical and summary report by Kestrel Group shortly. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested will soon be publicly available.

*The last Budget had money for this advice. What 2021-22 funding will be available for it*

The budget that was made available in 2021/22 funded the Kestrel report outlined above. Any further work that may arise from the report is now the responsibility of Te Whatu Ora to prioritise and fund.

*Pls advise how many DHBs have DSAs that have not begun when they need to, or are incomplete*

This part of your request encompasses a large volume of information, which cannot be made available without substantial manual collation or research unless a refinement to the scope is made. In order to assist with refining your request, a copy of the New Building Standard (NBS) Assessment's summary held by Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand is being released to you as Appendix 1.

The data available has been updated following a refresh of data in 2022. The type of buildings can be found by checking its Importance Level, as defined by the Building Act, or by the name which usually includes the service provided. Please note a hospital is not a single building but a complex interconnected site of infrastructure.

A full list of certified public health providers is also available on the Ministry of Health website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/certified-providers/public-hospital> should you wish to refine your request to a specific public hospital or region. It may also be useful to specify a timeframe for seismic reports you are interested in.

*Pls update the figure of 52 EPBs at DHBs, that MOH gave in 2020*

Please refer appendix 1 attached to this letter for the data held by Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand.

Additionally, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) operates the Earthquake Prone Buildings (EPB) Register which provides information about building that territorial authorities (local councils) have determined to be earthquake prone. This register is publicly available here: <https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-earthquake-prone-buildings/epb-register/>.

There may be differences between the information we hold and MBIE's Earthquake Prone Building register depending on how information has been loaded into the EPB register.

Please be advised, there are over 1200 buildings in the health estate. Many of them are not considered critical in terms of providing critical clinical services. Where buildings in high risk seismic zones have been declared earthquake prone, the earthquake prone building regulations provide for a time frame to remediate the building. In high risk seismic zones it is 7.5 years, medium risk 12 years and low risk 30 years.

Where critical hospital buildings have been declared earthquake prone in high risk seismic zones, these buildings are either already being redeveloped or have redevelopment planning underway. For example, Taranaki that is currently under construction and Nelson that is preparing a business case for redevelopment. In other cases, planning is also underway to remediate.

Not all buildings that have a low score %NBS mean that their structure is at risk of imminent collapse. The rating given to a building is for the lowest scoring element. For example, if a building has heavy ceiling tiles that are not restrained correctly this could cause a very low %NBS rating. The remediation could include either replacing the ceiling tiles with light weight ceiling tiles or improving their restraint to the building. Additionally, if the lowest scoring element is the stairs that means they may collapse in a rare earthquake, the remediation would be to provide extra strength to the stairs and that resolves the rating.


In terms of %NBS ratings below 15%, prior to updated engineering guidance be released in 2017, there was no lower bound established. The 2017 updated guidelines set the lower bound to 15. Any assessments lower than 15% indicates that the assessment is older than 2017.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with Te Whatu Ora at: [hngovernmentservices@health.govt.nz](mailto:hngovernmentservices@health.govt.nz).

Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on Te Whatu Ora’s website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monique Foulwer', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Monique Foulwer

**Pou Whakahaere | Director – Delivery  
Infrastructure & Investment Group**