



**BAY OF PLENTY**  
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD  
HAUORA A TOI

Cnr Clarke St & 20th Ave  
Private Bag 12024  
Tauranga 3143  
New Zealand  
Phone 07 579 8000

## OIA REQUEST

**Received:** 15 December 2021  
**Due:** 02 February 2022  
**Clarification:** 16 February 2022  
**Response Date:** 10 February 2022  
**Subject:**

---

In response to your request under the Official Information Act, please find our response below:

**This is an Official Information Act request for all documents or reports, including emails or correspondence around proposals and agreements about funding or support, between the Tauranga Bethlehem Birthing Centre and the Bay of Plenty District Health Board in the past five years.**

**I also request any internal or external reports or reviews into the Tauranga Bethlehem Birthing Centre, it's performance, funding, impacts on the DHB's maternity capacity, or approaches by it's staff or owners, in the same time frame.**

**I'm trying to understand what the agreement was in place around funding between the BOPDHB and the birthing centre, how that was reached and how it's been maintained and handled since.**

Communications between Bay of Plenty District Health Board and Bethlehem Birthing Centre related to proposals, agreements, funding and support over the past 5 years are considered to be commercial and in confidence. As such, pursuant to clause 9 (2)(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1983 the BOPDHB is withholding this information as to release it would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is subject of the information.

The DHB can however respond on your point of interest regarding "what the agreement was in place around funding between the BOPDHB and the birthing centre, how that was reached and how it's been maintained and handled since."

During the initial planning stages of the Bethlehem Birthing Centre the provider informed the DHB that it would be providing a primary care birthing centre. The position of the DHB was and is that if people in the Bay of Plenty choose to use the centre, and the service provided complies with mandated standards of care and safety, the DHB would fund the birthing and post-natal events.

The choice for women to give birth in a Primary Care setting is a mandated under the service coverage schedule which currently applies to all DHBs. DHB funding for Bethlehem Birthing centre is related to patient choice. If a patient chooses to use the facility and it is deemed safe and clinically appropriate for the birth or post-natal stay to occur in a primary care setting, the event will be funded. There is not a guaranteed level of overall funding under the agreement with Bethlehem Birthing Centre, apart from the prices that will be paid in the event a woman chooses to use the facility.



Bay of Plenty DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website. Please note this response may be published on our website. [Official Information Act | Bay of Plenty District Health Board | Hauora a Toi | BOPDHB](#)

You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review our response. [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DOB', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**DEBBIE BROWN**

Senior Advisor Governance and Quality