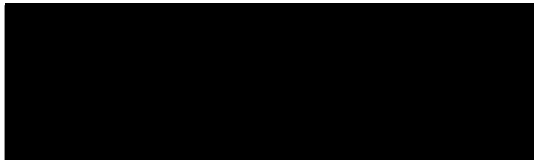




11 September 2018



Dear

**Official Information Act request – waiting times for elective services**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 16 August 2018 regarding access to certain elective services.

By way of background, please note that Waitemata DHB has the largest resident population of any DHB in New Zealand, currently standing at around 630,000 people.

Caution is advised in comparing raw data provided by different DHBs due to differences in population size and complexity of clinical caseloads.

Responses to your questions are provided below.

- *The number of patients (by priority) who waited/are waiting longer than the clinically assessed timeframe for a gastroscopy from January 1 2018 to July 31 2018, and what proportion this represents.*

We have interpreted your request to mean: how many people were current on the waitlist to have a gastroscopy or colonoscopy as at 31 July 2018 and proportion that were still within clinically assessed timeframes; and how many people had a gastroscopy or colonoscopy during the period in question and the proportion of these that were completed within clinically assessed timeframes. Please see the table below.

Waiting list type (Gastroscopy) - for the period 1st Jan to 31st July 2018	Number waiting as at 31 <sup>st</sup> July	Number waiting at 31 <sup>st</sup> July who were compliant	% waiting compliant at 31st July	Number of gastros completed during the period	Number of gastros completed during the period who were compliant	% completed compliant during period	Average Days Waiting	Median Days Waiting	Longest Days Waiting
Urgent Diagnostic (14 days)	19	19	100%	376	362	96%	8	7	26
Normal Diagnostic (42 days)	602	309	51%	1056	587	56%	50	42	137
Surveillance (84 days)	48	37	77%	38	26	68%	58	27	131

- The number of patients (by priority) who waited/are waiting longer than the clinically assessed timeframe for a colonoscopy from January 1 2018 to July 31 2018 and what proportion this represents (including the average and longest time waiting).

Waiting list type (Colonoscopy)- for the period 1st Jan to 31st July 2018	Number waiting as at 31 <sup>st</sup> July	Number waiting at 31 <sup>st</sup> July who were compliant	% waiting compliant at 31st July	Number of colos completed during the period	Number of colos completed during the period who were compliant	% completed compliant during period	Average Days Waiting	Median Days Waiting	Longest Days Waiting
Urgent Diagnostic (14 days)	13	13	100%	311	300	96%	8	8	21
Normal Diagnostic (42 days)	780	528	68%	1762	1178	67%	45	39	128
Surveillance (84 days)	446	280	63%	594	372	63%	77	70	179

There are multiple factors that influence why a small number of people waited significantly longer than others for their procedure, many of which are unrelated to service capacity. Some patients do not attend on the day their procedure is first scheduled and are rebooked to a later date, while some are delayed due to medical considerations.

- The number of dermatology referrals rejected in the first six months of 2018. Please state whether the patient in question was a child or adult, and what proportion of the total number of referrals those rejected represent.

#### Dermatology referrals

Age	Month Referral Received	Number of Referrals Received	Number of Referrals Accepted	Number of Referrals Rejected	% Rejected
Adult	Jan	157	78	79	50%
	Feb	136	66	70	51%
	Mar	179	106	73	41%
	Apr	146	92	54	37%
	May	160	77	83	52%
	Jun	159	90	69	43%
<b>Adult Total</b>		<b>937</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>46%</b>
Child	Jan	1	1	0	0%
	Feb	2	0	2	100%
	Mar	2	0	2	100%
	Apr	1	1	0	0%
	May	3	0	3	100%
	June	0	0	0	0%
<b>Child Total</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>78%</b>

#### Dermatology rejected Referrals by rejection reason

Reason the referral was rejected	Number of Adult Referrals Rejected	Number of Child Referrals Rejected	Total Number of Referrals Rejected
Does not require specialist review	203	4	207
Below access threshold	165	1	166
Transfer within Waitemata DHB	18	1	19
Inappropriate/incomplete referral	12	1	13
Additional information required	12		12
Transfer of Care	9		9
Duplicate referral	3		3
Clinic appointment not needed, consultant letter to follow	1		1
Service Not Provided By Waitemata DHB	1		1
Transfer to Auckland DHB	1		1

Patient current to Service	1		1
Not Waitemata DHB Domicile	1		1
Not Specified	1		1

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitemata DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



**Cath Cronin**  
**Director Hospital Services**  
**Waitemata District Health Board**