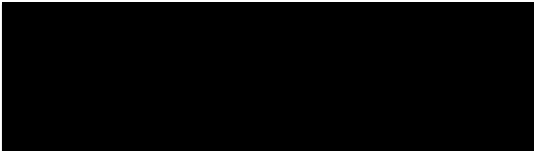




11 February 2019



E-mail: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

**Re: OIA request – PET scans**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 29 January 2019 to Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) seeking responses to questions about PET and PET-CT scans.

Waitemata DHB contracts private providers to perform this work. We have liaised with those providers to develop the responses below.

**1. Number and location of PET (positron emission tomography) and PET-CT (positron emission tomography-computed tomography) scanning machines in NZ.**

There are two private providers of PET-CT in metropolitan Auckland (Ascot Radiology and Mercy Radiology) who have one machine each.

**2. Current working condition of each of these machines - for example whether they are in top working condition, in need of upgrade/refurbishment, or broken.**

The Ascot Radiology machine is nine months old and in excellent working condition, with a full service contract to ensure regular scheduled maintenance. The Mercy Radiology machine is eight years old and has been under a scheduled services and maintenance contract over this time and the machine is in perfect working order.

**3. The timeline and anticipated cost for the repair or replacement of any PET or PET-CT machines which are currently broken or in need of upgrade/ refurbishment.**

Mercy Radiology has indicated the replacement of their current machine would be five years away due to being in excellent working order. The Ascot Radiology machine would not need replacing for a minimum of 10 years. There are no pending repair or upgrade costs needed for either machine. The indicative costs of replacing a PET-CT machine based on current information is between \$2-3 million.

**4. Current patient waiting times for PET and PET-CT scans, with these figures broken down by DHB and reason for scan (i.e. breast cancer detection, prostate cancer detection etc).**

The current wait times for publicly funded patients to receive their scan and have this reported is within seven working days for general cases and within five working days for

lung cases unless specified by the specialist to be within a different timeframe. It is expected that 90% all PET-CT scans are completed and reported within these timeframes and the providers exceed this expectation, with an average 96% achievement of this indicator.

5. **Forecast patient waiting times for PET and PET-CT scans over the next six months, with these figures broken down by DHB and reason for scan (i.e. breast cancer detection, prostate cancer detection etc.).**

We cannot forecast waiting times for PET and PET-CT scans over the next six months because it is dependant on the number of referrals we receive in that period, which we have no way to predict.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tim Wood', written over a horizontal line.

**Tim Wood**  
**Deputy Director Funding**  
**Waitemata District Health Board**