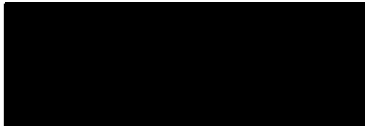




13 February 2019



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Weight loss surgery numbers from 2010 - 2018

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 26 January 2019 seeking the following of Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

- *“Could you please advise how many people received bariatric surgery (gastric banding, laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass surgery) through the DHB and the age of the individual, each calendar year, from 2010 to 2018”.*

Waitemata DHB serves the largest resident population of any DHB in New Zealand, currently standing at more than 630,000 people. Any comparison of data between DHB areas needs to consider population size and demographic factors.

Waitemata DHB performs bariatric surgeries for people who are residents within our own district and also for some patients who live outside our catchment area.

The data provided in this response represents surgeries performed on patients who are Waitemata DHB residents only (called DHB of Domicile in the attached table). Data on bariatric surgeries performed by Waitemata DHB on patients from other districts has been provided to their local DHB for inclusion in their own separate response to your request.

Please see the attached table outlining Waitemata DHB patient bariatric surgeries. Please note that, using the Ministry of Health funded procedure codes for the above procedures, there were no procedures recorded in 2010/11, 2011/12 or 2012/13.

We have provided the data in 10-year age bands because the numbers of procedures are small enough that we believe there is a real risk that individual patients may be identifiable. The decision to provide the data in this way was taken under Section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

If you wish to seek an independent review of this decision, you may do so via the Office of the Ombudsman, whose contact details are available via www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

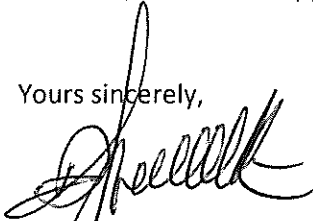
Also note that we have provided the data in financial years as this is how it is collected and reported, rather than calendar years.

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 read 'Debbie Holdsworth', written in a cursive style.

Dr Debbie Holdsworth
Director Funding
Waitemata and Auckland District Health Boards

Elective DHB Funded Bariatric Procedures for Waitemata DHB*

10-year age bands	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
15 to 24	0	0	0	0	2	3	5	5
25 to 34	0	0	0	1	5	5	13	15
35 to 44	0	0	0	2	27	29	34	27
45 to 54	0	0	0	4	36	29	40	42
55 to 64	0	0	0	1	8	9	11	10
65 to 74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	8	78	75	103	99

* NoteThe data presented in this table is by DHB of Domicile (DOD) – that is, the DHB assigned based on the address of the patient, rather than the DHB of the service providing the surgery.