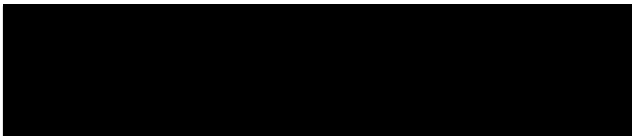


21 December 2020



Dear 

**Re: OIA request – Firearm injuries**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 7 December 2020 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the treatment of firearms injuries.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request, we can provide the following information:

**Have many people has the Waitematā District Health Board treated for firearm injuries since January 2016?**

- In the figures please break down how many children received treatment?
- How many treatments were as a result of gang violence?
- And what types of firearms caused each injury?

Starship Hospital, which is part of Auckland DHB, provides treatment for such injuries to children within the Auckland metropolitan area. For this reason, this aspect your request was transferred to Auckland DHB on 15 December.

In response to the remainder of your request, we are able to provide the following information:

**How many people has the Waitematā DHB treated for firearm injuries since January 2016?**

Waitematā DHB has received similar OIA requests related to firearm injuries. Please refer to a recent request published on our website which provides the data you have requested from 2016:

<http://www.waitematadhb.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Publish-OIA-response-gunshot-and-stabbing-injuries.pdf>

**How many treatments were as a result of gang violence?**

We are unable to provide information in response to this question as we do not collect this data.

We are, therefore, refusing this aspect of your request under Section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information requested is not held by us.

**What types of firearms caused each injury?**

Type of firearm	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Unspecified	6	8	11	6	8	39
Air-rifle	6	5	4	2	6	23
Handgun	1				1	2
Shotgun				1		1

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions made in providing this response. Information about how to seek a review is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community 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 consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



**Stephanie Doe**  
**Acting Director Provider Healthcare Services**  
**Waitematā District Health Board**