



11 June 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Official Information Act request – Elective Surgery Centre (ESC) staffing**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 15 May 2019. In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

**1) How many surgical staff work at the ESC and does it include all specialties? Can you name the staff such as surgeon, anaesthetist, theatre nurse etc?**

The following are the number of **surgical staff** who have lists over the four-week theatre schedule at ESC:

Orthopaedics	14 Surgeons
General Surgery	12 Surgeons
Urology	4 Surgeons
ORL	2 Surgeons
Gynaecology	8 Surgeons
Breast/Plastics	2 Surgeons
Anaesthetists	10.5 FTE (Full Time Equivalents)
Anaesthetic Technicians	5.8 FTE

**Theatre Staffing - ESC**

Senior Nurses	4.6 FTE
Registered Nurses	18.5 FTE
Health Care Assistants	4.0 FTE
Orderly	2.0 FTE
Administration	1.4 FTE

**2) What is the remuneration rate for surgeons per surgical session?** Surgeons at the ESC are not remunerated for surgical sessions alone. Their remuneration instead covers an entire package-of-care that includes pre-surgical work, the surgical procedure and post-operative care until discharge. We are unable to break down these costs any further in order to provide you with an actual rate per surgical session. However, average package-of-care rates for a range of ESC surgical procedures can be calculated and made available upon request.

**3) What types of elective services are undertaken in the ESC?**

The following specialties have elective lists at ESC:

- Urology
- Otorhinolaryngology (ORL)

- General Surgery
- Orthopaedics
- Gynaecology
- Breast/Plastics

ESC provides surgical care for a range of day cases and inpatients whose cases are generally of a lower clinical complexity than those who have their procedures at North Shore Hospital.

**4) Is there a cost-saving to the DHB to having surgeries in the ESC and if so what is it?**

As per point 3 above, ESC provides surgical procedures and post-operative care to a very specific cohort of patients whose medical needs are generally of a lower clinical complexity to those who have their procedures done at our other surgical sites and/or other DHBs. It is not, therefore, possible to provide a meaningful comparison of costs.

**5) And as above what are the latest figures in terms of elective surgery discharges from the ESC?**

There were 5,268 discharges from ESC in FY18 (July 2017 – June 2018).

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitematā 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**  
**Waitematā District Health Board**