



25 September 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act request – Firearms/stabbing injuries

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 4 September 2019 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) on firearms/stabbing injuries as below:

- I'd like to request some figures from the DHB around gunshot wounds.*
- Please let me know if this request needs to be treated as an OIA.*
- Please provide me figures on how many patients have been treated for gunshot wounds at both Waitakere and North Shore hospitals.*
- Please provide a breakdown for each hospital for 2016, 2017, 2018 and the year to date.*
- Please provide further breakdown of the injuries in terms of severity (fatal/critical/serious/moderate etc), which body parts were wounded, what type of firearms were used (if known).*
- Please provide figures on the estimated cost of treating patients with gunshot wounds for the above time periods.*
- Please provide any relevant comment.*
- Finally, please provide the same figures and breakdowns for patients with stabbing injuries.*

Responses to your questions are provided below.

Please find a summary of treatment for gun/firearm-related injuries and stabbing for the period January 2016 to date.

Total by site, injury type and year:

Hospital	Year Type	Year			
		2016	2017	2018	2019
North Shore Hospital	Gun wounds	3	1	0	0
	Stab wounds	3	5	2	0
Waitakere Hospital	Gun wounds	1	1	2	0
	Stab wounds	3	3	2	1

Waitematā DHB does not have a costing system that can easily identify the total costs for these specific patients and any comment on seriousness would require expert review of individual patient charts which, given the low numbers involved, carries the risk of individual patients being identifiable. We are, therefore, declining to provide this information under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.

If you require a review of this decision, you are entitled to contact the Office of the Ombudsman, whose details are available via www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Christiansen', written in a cursive style.

Dr Jonathan Christiansen
Chief Medical Officer
Waitematā District Health Board