

9 March 2023

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: HNZ00011724 – Orthopaedics outsourced surgery**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 17 February 2023, seeking information from Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand Waitematā about outsourced orthopaedic surgery.

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

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing health districts in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing more than 8,900 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.

Your original request was:

**“Please provide me with statistics for the number of outsourced surgeries your department has utilised since these recommendations were made. Information I received from my OIA request last year stated that the WDHB had not outsourced any surgery since the financial year 2017/2018. The same OIA request stated it is used for the treatment of non ACC care.”**

On 20 February 2023, we advised we were interpreting your request as follows:

**Please provide me with statistics for the number of outsourced surgeries your department has utilised since the planned task force recommendations to reduce waiting lists were made (from June 2022) [until date OIA request received, 17 Feb 2023].**

On 27 February 2023, you advised you were happy with this interpretation and further requested the following:

**To save time, if the answer is none, please provide the reasons for this. And are there strategies for implementing outsourcing, of surgery, and if not, why not, as it was a recommendation.**

In response, we are able to provide the following information:

There has been no out-sourcing in this timeframe. Surgical volumes are monitored on a daily operational basis to ensure we stay within Ministry of Health guidelines so that patients are seen within order of clinical priority.

I trust that this information is helpful.

## How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Brad Healey**  
Interim Lead Hospital and Specialist Services  
Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand Waitematā