



29 August 2018



Dear

**Official Information Act request – surgical waiting lists**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 8 August 2018 seeking the following of Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

*As at 1 August 2018:*

- 1) *How many patients were on lung, bowel, prostate, breast, cervical and skin cancer surgical waiting lists*
- 2) *What is the longest time for a patient on the waiting list for lung, bowel, prostate, breast, cervical and skin cancer surgery*
- 3) *What the average wait time is for patients on lung, bowel, prostate, breast, cervical and skin cancer surgical waiting lists*
- 4) *Whether the DHB is meeting FCT health targets (by quarter, from Aug 2016 to Aug 2018)*

In response, the table below provides information in response to questions 1-3.

Waitemata DHB surgical waiting times

	<b>Number of patients waiting</b>	<b>Maximum waiting days*</b>	<b>Average waiting days</b>	<b>Number of surgeries performed 12 months to 1 August 2018</b>
Breast	13	148	49	202
Colorectal (bowel)	27	93	25	180
Other	64	306	46	498
Skin Melanoma (skin)	117	100	35	197

\* Please note – Maximum waiting time includes delays to surgery due to patient choice and is not an accurate measure of system capacity.

Please also note:

1. Lung cancer surgery for Waitemata DHB patients is managed by Auckland DHB.
2. Waitemata DHB is unable to provide separate data for prostate and cervical cancer surgeries. These categories of cancer surgery are reported as 'Other'. A table is provided below outlining the types of procedures included in this category.

NB: "Other" includes the following list:	
<b>Inpatient Wait List Categories - Pilonidal</b> Excision pilonidal sinus / cyst <b>IP Gynaecology</b> Cystoscopy Dilatation and curettage, D&C Hysterectomy - total abdominal Hysteroscopy Laparoscopy Procedure not listed - Gynaecology Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy	<b>Inpatient Wait List Categories - Urology</b> Biopsy of prostate Circumcision Cystoscopy Cystoscopy through artificial stoma EUA Laparoscopy Nephrectomy - laparoscopic Prostatectomy - radical Prostatectomy - retropubic Retrograde pyelogram Transurethral resection bladder tumour Transurethral resection prostate Ureteroscopy

In response to question four, please note that Waitemata DHB was the first DHB in the country to reach the Faster Cancer Treatment health target and has met it every quarter since. Please see the table below.

Waitemata DHB Faster Cancer Treatment Health Target performance

2016	Jul/Aug/Sept	89.70%	
2016	Oct/Nov/Dec	90.60%	
2017	Jan/Feb/Mar	93.90%	
2017	Apr/May/June	91.30%	Target increased from 85% to 90% from 1 April 2017
2017	Jul/Aug/Sept	93.80%	
2017	Oct/Nov/Dec	95.00%	
2018	Jan/Feb/Mar	91.70%	
2018	Apr/May/June	96.20%	

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



**Cath Cronin**  
**Director of Hospital Services**  
**Waitemata District Health Board**