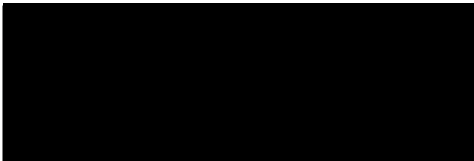




Waitematā
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

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3 July 2019



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act request – National Bowel Screening Programme

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 18 June 2019, seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about demand for services created by the National Bowel Screening Programme.

As per our earlier partial transfer advice, you will receive a national response to questions 2, 3 and 6 from the Ministry of Health. The questions the Ministry will respond to are listed below:

- (2) *The number of colonoscopies performed at the DHB each month for the last five years to date (May 2015 to May 2019).*
- (3) *A copy of the DHB's criteria to approve a colonoscopy referral.*
- (6) *The amount each colonoscopy costs the DHB.*

Waitematā DHB's responses to your remaining questions are provided below.

- (1) *The number of colonoscopy (bowel screening) referrals the DHB has declined each month for the last five years to date (May 2015 to May 2019).*

The Bowel Screening Programme accepts all referrals for people who have participated in the programme and have a positive test. There have been no referrals declined during this period.

- (4) *The number of gastroenterology specialists employed by the DHB; broken down into full-time and part-time employees.*

The bowel screening programme funds five specialists (total 0.5 full-time equivalent staff) to perform five screening lists per week. These gastroenterologists are employed full-time by Waitematā DHB and work the balance of their time treating patients who have not been identified through the National Bowel Screening Programme.

- (5) *The number of vacancies the DHB currently has available for gastroenterology specialists and how long each vacancy has been open for.*

There are no vacancies among the positions funded for performing bowel screening colonoscopies.

(7) *The number of colonoscopies the DHB has outsourced to the private sector each year for the last five years.*

There have been no bowel screening colonoscopies outsourced to the private sector in the past five years.

(8) *The amount of money the DHB has spent to outsource colonoscopies to the private sector each financial year for the last five financial years.*

There has been no money spent on outsourcing bowel screening colonoscopies for the last five financial years.

(9) *The amount of money the DHB has budgeted for colonoscopies against the amount of money spent for colonoscopies (including those outsourced) for each financial year, for the last five years.*

The Bowel Screening Programme budgets revenue for the anticipated number of colonoscopies each year – that number is determined by the Ministry of Health’s modelling data and is included in the contract for screening services between the Ministry and Waitematā DHB.

The Waitematā DHB screening programme receives payment/revenue for only the colonoscopies performed as a consequence of a positive test. Please see the details provided below outlining budgeted spend and actual spend.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
\$ Planned/budget	1,260,000	1,260,000	1,260,000	1,436,796	1,659,613
\$ Payment/actual	987,525	1,015,350	1,026,375	863,225	1,112,800

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