



Waitematā

District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

Provider Healthcare Services

North Shore Hospital Campus

Shakespeare Road, Takapuna

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21 January 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Hip and knee replacements

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 8 December 2020 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about hip and knee replacements.

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 DHBs 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 around 8,500 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.

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

- 1. The number of patients who received a hip replacement for the period of 1/1/20 – 30/11/20.***
351.
- 2. The number of patients who received a knee replacement for the period of 1/1/20 – 30/11/20.***
474.
- 3. The number of patients who received a hip replacement who were referred by a private specialist.***
- 4. The number of patients who received a knee replacement who were referred by a private specialist.***
- 5. The number of patients who received a knee or hip replacement that were referred privately by a specialist who also contracts or works for your DHB.***
- 6. The number of privately referred patients who do not have to undertake a first specialist appointment.***

The information you have requested in questions 3 to 6 is held within patients' individual clinical records. Due to the sensitivity of the information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual patient files and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

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We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. Therefore, we have determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 due to substantial collusion or research.

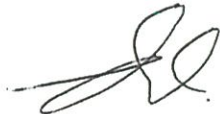
You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to seek a review is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community 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 consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely

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

Mark Shepherd
Director, Provider Healthcare Services
Waitematā District Health Board