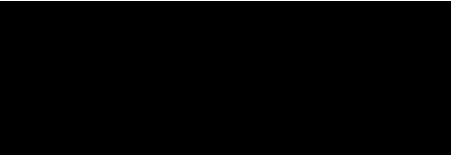


1 February 2019



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act request – average wait times for maternal mental health and current waiting list

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) received 11 January 2019.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services to assist your understanding. The Waitemata DHB Specialist Mental Health and Addiction Service serves a population of 630,000 and is the largest service in the country by volume of service-users seen. Our total mental health services workforce numbers just over 1,260 permanent staff. Our Maternal Mental Health Team sits within our Child Youth and Family Mental Health Service.

In answer to your questions, please see the responses provided below.

1. What is the average wait time for maternal mental health services at the DHB?

All women requiring assessment and treatment for maternal mental health issues are initially triaged. Any acute needs are responded to by the Acute Adult Mental Health teams immediately. Less urgent needs are dealt with by the Maternal Mental Health Team through an appointment process.

We have interpreted your request as being the average time between a referral from our Acute Adult Mental Health teams to our specialist Maternal Mental Health Team and the time of the first face-to-face assessment. For the calendar year ending 31 December 2018, the average wait time between referral from the Adult Mental Health Team to being seen by the Maternal Mental Health Team was 24.76 days.

2. Is there a waiting list currently, and if so, how many people are waiting?

The Maternal Mental Health Team currently has no waiting list.

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



Dr Susanna Galea-Singer
Director, Specialist Mental Health & Addiction Services
Waitemata District Health Board