



07 March 2022



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Caesarean sections with simultaneous tubal ligation procedures

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 17 February seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the number of women who have had a tubal ligation during a caesarean section.

You requested the following information:

How many caesarean sections in the past five years, if any, have also had simultaneous tubal ligations at the time of the caesarean section, listed as dual procedures in total and per capita women aged 20-45 by year ?

On 17 February, we contacted you to clarify if you were seeking information on the total population of women in that age category who live in the Waitematā DHB district or the number of women in that age category who have given birth in our district in that timeframe.

That same day, you advised that you were seeking both.

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 8,900 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.

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

Tubal ligation, also known as tubal sterilisation or ‘having the tubes tied’, is a type of permanent birth control. ‘Tubal’ refers to the fallopian tubes and ‘ligation’ means to tie-off.

Postpartum contraception options are discussed as part of routine antenatal care. This includes the risks, benefits and alternatives as part of an informed choice process. If a woman is planning to have an elective caesarean (planned rather than emergency), then she may choose to have a tubal ligation as part of this planned procedure. A separate and specific consent form for tubal ligation is required in addition to the consent for caesarean. Tubal ligation is not offered if the caesarean

section is performed as an emergency as the outcome for this infant may be uncertain and the urgency of decision-making may result in later regret.

We have provided this data alongside the number of births at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals per calendar year to use as a denominator. We do not have the age-specific population data for Waitematā DHB that you requested.

We are, therefore, refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information is not held by us.

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

However, this will be available on request from Statistics New Zealand <https://www.stats.govt.nz/contact-us/>

Table 1. Tubal ligations at caesarean birth by calendar year

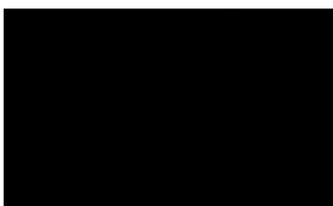
Calendar year	Number of tubal ligations performed at elective caesarean	Total number of births in Waitematā DHB hospitals
2016	81	7,021
2017	131	6,840
2018	118	6,604
2019	125	6,957
2020	132	6,506
2021	101	6,993

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



**Executive Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board**