



13 May 2022



Dear

Re: OIA request – Colonoscopies affected by COVID-19

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 27 April seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about colonoscopy service provision.

On 27 April, you requested:

I would be very appreciative if it would be possible to get an idea of the number of patients that have undergone a colonoscopy in the year of 2021 and 2020.

On 28 April, you subsequently clarified your request as follows:

Would I be able to make a slight amendment to the request?

I would like to see the number of patients who have had a colonoscopy per year in the past five years, as 2020 was affected by COVID-19?

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 more than 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:

The number of patients who have had a colonoscopy per year in the past five years, as 2020 was affected by COVID-19.

Waitematā DHB provides colonoscopies through a mix of in-house service-provision at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals and use of outsourced providers. We have worked hard to maintain service provision levels throughout the pandemic to ensure patients are still being screened in a timely manner, with routine provision of Saturday lists and addition of lists through leasing of private endoscopy suite time over April and May. The following table and graph show the total number of colonoscopies provided for the period in question and the breakdown between in-house and outsourced provision.

Please note that 'insourced' refers to procedures delivered by Waitematā DHB in our facilities. 'Outsourced' procedures refer to Waitematā DHB patients who had their colonoscopies performed by private providers under a contract with us as a way of ensuring patients receive their colonoscopies in a timely manner.

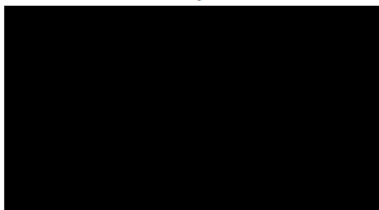
Number of Waitematā DHB colonoscopy patients for past five years			
Calendar year	Treated - insourced	Treated - outsourced	Total
2017	2,489	2,108	4,597
2018	3,407	1,845	5,252
2019	3,928	2,297	6,225
2020	3,465	2,435	5,900
2021	3,365	2,594	5,959

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**