

16 July 2020

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020047

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 16 March 2020 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

### ***Is the drug Avastin - used to treat cancers - administered to any patients in the DHBs public hospitals?***

Avastin is a medicine registered by Medsafe but not funded by PHARMAC to treat cancer patients in New Zealand. As such it is not used to treat cancers in Hawke's Bay DHB owned facilities.

### ***If so, what is the drug used to treat and how many patients are treated with it?***

Avastin is used at Hawke's Bay Hospital to treat eye conditions such as age-related macular degeneration.

The following table shows the number of patients treated for the period June 2018 to May 2020. Please note that some patients receive more than one treatment.

Time period	Number of patients	Number of treatments
06/2018 – 05/2019	1931	2169
06/2019 – 05/2020	2095	2332
<b>Average patients per year = 2013</b>		<b>Average treatments per year = 2251</b>

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602. Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



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cc: Ministry of Health via email: [SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz](mailto:SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz) [oia@hbdhb.govt.nz](mailto:oia@hbdhb.govt.nz)