

24 February 2020

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020011

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 14 January 2020 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

Re: Cataract surgery / intra-ocular lens replacement for the time period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019.

1. *Breakdown in terms of numbers for each type of GP referral that were declined and accepted?*
 - 1A. *Non urgent referrals*
 - 1B. *Urgent referrals*
2. *Breakdown in terms of numbers for each type of specialist referral that were declined and accepted?*
 - 2A. *Non urgent referrals*
 - 2B. *Urgent referrals*
 - 2C. *Emergency department referrals*

Hawke's Bay DHB is unable to provide a full breakdown of this information. Referrals, irrespective of origin, are made to a specialist service for First Specialist Assessment (FSA). Referrers do not determine urgency for most cases, nor do they determine the procedure required. However, any referral information provided does inform the decision-making of DHB specialists. The DHB can provide grouped referral information, per below:

GP and Specialist Referrals

- 748 referrals received within time period
- 27 declined

Urgent/ED Referrals

- 11 referrals received within time period
- Zero declined

3. *Once the following referral has been accepted how long before seeing a specialist?*
 - 3A. *Non urgent referrals*
 - 3B. *Urgent referrals*
 - 3C. *Emergency department referrals*

The DHB is unable to provide data specific to referral and 'acceptance' of surgery but can provide you with the average time from FSA to procedure. The average time from receipt

of the referral to the First Specialist Assessment (FSA) for cataract / intra-ocular lens replacement procedure is 28 days for urgent referrals and 195 days for non-urgent referrals.

4. *How long from each of the types of referrals being accepted to the cataracts being removed?*
 - 4A. *Non urgent referrals*
 - 4B. *Urgent referrals*
 - 4C. *Emergency department referrals*

Refer above (question 3).

5. *How many cataract surgery / intra-ocular lens replacement was your DHB funded for the time period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019?*

There is no annual, or specific number of cataract surgery/intra-ocular lens replacement procedures, funded; the cost of these is allocated within the overall Ophthalmology Planned Care operational budget.

For the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019, 887 cataract / intra-ocular lens replacement procedures were undertaken.

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



John Burns
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROVIDER SERVICES
TE PUNI RATONGA

cc: *Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz*
oia@hbdhb.govt.nz