

8 October 2020

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020121**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 7 September 2020 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- 1. How many patients were on the waiting list for colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**
- 2. What was the average wait time for urgent or category A colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**
- 3. What was the average wait time for non-urgent or category B colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**
- 4. What was the average wait time for surveillance or routine colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**
- 5. What was the ratio between colonoscopies performed for non-urgent patients, versus patients referred through the National Bowel Screening Programme at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020? (If the screening programme has been rolled out in your DHB area).** Please refer to Appendix One for HBDHB's response to questions 1-5.

- 6. How many of your patients have recovered from colorectal cancer, versus those that died from the disease between August 2019 and August 2020?**

Hawke's Bay DHB does not hold data on the number of patients that have recovered from colorectal cancer and the number of patients that have died from colorectal cancer. Therefore we are declining this part of your request under section 18 (g) of the Official Information Act relating to information not held by the department or agency.

- 7. How many colonoscopies lead to a confirmed diagnosis of colorectal cancer each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**

This information is not easily available without having to manually review patient notes (in excess of 12,500 individual records for the period requested) to clarify what has been picked up by a scope or not. Therefore we are declining this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act relating to information that cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

This information may be accessible through a customised request to the New Zealand Cancer Registry (email [data-enquiries@moh.govt.nz](mailto:data-enquiries@moh.govt.nz)).

- 8. How many categories does your DHB divide your waiting list into? What are the criteria for each category?**

Hawke's Bay DHB has three wait list categories for colonoscopies—urgent, semi urgent and

surveillance. The criteria for each is:

CATEGORY	CRITERIA
Urgent	Diagnostic Colonoscopy 90% of people accepted for an urgent diagnostic colonoscopy receive their procedure within two weeks (14 days).
Semi Urgent	Diagnostic Colonoscopy 70% of people accepted for a diagnostic colonoscopy receive their procedure within six weeks (42 days).
Surveillance	Surveillance Colonoscopy 70% of all people accepted for a surveillance colonoscopy receive their procedure within twelve weeks (84 days of the planned date).

**9. How many people are presently on the colonoscopy waiting list for each of these categories?**

CATEGORY	Number of people as at 31/8/2020
Urgent	14
Semi Urgent	196
Surveillance	339

**10. How long is the average waiting time for each category?**

CATEGORY	Average wait time in days as at 31/8/2020
Urgent	9.9
Semi Urgent	56.0
Surveillance	117.9

Note: COVID-19 and specialist gastroenterologist staff resourcing has impacted wait times. Performance for both routine and surveillance colonoscopies is expected to improve with the successful recruitment of specialist staff; the National Bowel Screening Programme was restarted on 24 September 2020.

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

Chris Ash  
Chief Operating Officer, Provider Services  
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**APPENDIX ONE: End of month average waiting time in days for Urgent, Semi-Urgent and Surveillance Colonoscopy procedures.**

Note: Surveillance waiting time is the days waited since the surveillance due date, Any surveillance referrals not reaching the due date year are excluded. Includes Colonoscopies and Flexible Sigmoidoscopies.

	Q2: Urgent		Q3: Semi Urgent		Q4: Surveillance*		Q1: Total Waiting	Non Urgent Procedures Performed	NBSP Procedures Performed	Q5: Non Urgent Procedures Ratio
	Volume	Average Wait	Volume	Average Wait	Volume	Average Wait		(Semi Urgent and Surveillance)		
<b>31/08/2018</b>	7	6.3	218	37.8	132	67.2	<b>357</b>	181	0	N/A
<b>30/09/2018</b>	13	7.5	211	38.8	155	66.0	<b>379</b>	120	0	N/A
<b>31/10/2018</b>	14	4.6	223	48.2	161	68.6	<b>398</b>	101	0	N/A
<b>30/11/2018</b>	8	6.4	228	33.9	162	65.4	<b>398</b>	163	4	40.75
<b>31/12/2018</b>	2	10.5	129	31.4	183	71.1	<b>314</b>	197	9	21.89
<b>31/01/2019</b>	15	4.6	95	39.6	159	69.6	<b>269</b>	152	24	6.33
<b>28/02/2019</b>	11	4.4	167	36.9	132	67.6	<b>310</b>	110	28	3.93
<b>31/03/2019</b>	14	7.4	234	40.8	163	66.6	<b>411</b>	99	31	3.19
<b>30/04/2019</b>	10	8.3	243	47.4	190	74.3	<b>443</b>	119	29	4.10
<b>31/05/2019</b>	13	6.4	253	46.3	197	81.3	<b>463</b>	149	29	5.14
<b>30/06/2019</b>	18	7.3	297	41.5	234	76.8	<b>549</b>	121	25	4.84
<b>31/07/2019</b>	11	5.3	323	40.8	252	81.1	<b>586</b>	133	39	3.41
<b>31/08/2019</b>	26	7.7	363	49.8	258	84.3	<b>647</b>	136	32	4.25
<b>30/09/2019</b>	17	7.1	280	56.3	251	87.6	<b>548</b>	137	31	4.42
<b>31/10/2019</b>	17	8.1	269	57.4	276	92.3	<b>562</b>	127	38	3.34
<b>30/11/2019</b>	22	7.3	235	51.9	274	96.6	<b>531</b>	191	28	6.82
<b>31/12/2019</b>	12	9.5	232	55.8	289	100.4	<b>533</b>	125	38	3.29
<b>31/01/2020</b>	16	9.6	247	55.4	306	100.3	<b>569</b>	153	42	3.64
<b>29/02/2020</b>	15	6.3	228	56.3	323	99.1	<b>566</b>	137	41	3.34
<b>31/03/2020</b>	10	15.5	230	63.0	372	108.3	<b>612</b>	95	29	3.28
<b>30/04/2020</b>	9	25.8	265	81.1	382	127.2	<b>656</b>	1	0	0.00
<b>31/05/2020</b>	13	22.0	276	96.6	439	136.9	<b>728</b>	60	48	1.25
<b>30/06/2020</b>	12	5.8	235	86.1	373	141.3	<b>620</b>	224	32	7.00
<b>31/07/2020</b>	15	7.9	229	66.9	366	147.4	<b>610</b>	175	16	10.94
<b>31/08/2020</b>	14	9.9	196	56.0	339	117.9	<b>549</b>	232	11	21.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>5906</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>6368</b>	<b>99.3</b>		<b>3438</b>	<b>604</b>	

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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