

# Corporate Services



1 July 2021

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021061**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 31 May 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

***Please apply these questions below to the calendar year of 2020 AND 2017:***

- 1. How many people were referred by the GP to the DHB for a joint replacement that year?***
- 2. Of those, how many did not receive a first specialist appointment with a specialist orthopedic surgeon?***
- 3. Of those who had their first appointment with the specialist orthopedic surgeon, how many were then referred/sent back to their GP?***
- 4. Of those patients that were referred by GP for joint replacement surgery, how many went ahead to have surgery by the DHB?***
- 5. Of those who were referred by GP and had a first specialist appointment with an orthopedic surgeon, how many actually had their surgery with the DHB?***
- 6. How many patients were deemed clinically necessary to go on a waiting list for joint replacement that year?***
- 7. How many referrals from the GP and specialist for joint replacements were turned down that year?***
- 8. How many were turned down because of 'lack of capacity' ?***
- 9. Can you specify your DHBs criteria for joint surgery ?***
- 10. How many points do patients need to get onto the waiting list for joint replacement in your DHB?***
- 11. How many 'semi urgent' referrals from the GP to DHB for ENT (ears, nose throat) were actually seen by a specialist ?***

While Hawke's Bay District Health Board collects data based on volumes per calendar year activity, the DHB cannot track an individual patient through the pathway without considerable hours spent manually reviewing individual patient files by clinicians. Therefore Hawke's Bay DHB is unable to accurately provide responses to questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 and declines your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 due to substantial collation and research.

The DHB can provide you data based on volumes per calendar year activity, as follows: *Please note, the data provided is not correlated to individual patient pathway flow and therefore comparisons cannot be made between the groups of numbers provided below. The data volumes supplied below may include patients who could receive more than one referral in a calendar year (get re-referred) or have more than one joint operated on for example. This is why the volumes supplied aren't reflective of an individuals*

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**C H I E F   E X E C U T I V E ' S   O F F I C E**  
Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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*pathway but rather groupings of data. Additionally, COVID-19 pandemic (lockdown and subsequent alert level changes) has impacted 2020 data provided below.*

Hawke's Bay DHB received the following number of referrals for a First Specialist Assessment (FSA) for joint replacement (*i.e. 'joints' including Hip and Knee Replacements and Revisions*) during 2017 and 2020 as follows:

- 2017 = 692
- 2020 = 673\*

The number of people accepted for surgery each calendar year was:

- 2017 = 469
- 2020 = 425\*

The number of joint replacement surgeries performed was:

- 2017 = 446
- 2020 = 352\*

\*Note from acceptance to surgeries performed; some people choose to go privately, some patients may be delayed for health reasons. Additionally other impacts can be caused due to acute needs and/or strike periods impacting volumes through theatres. Please also note COVID-19 impacts as stated above \*.

In response to question 8.

198 people were declined due to capacity issues in 2017. 176 people were declined due to capacity issues in 2020.

In response to question 9.

The DHB's scoring system ranks and scores patients by assessment of their individual need versus ability to benefit. This is to ensure access is targeted to those deemed to have the greatest clinical need.

Waitlist management and threshold review includes input from both hospital clinicians and referring GPs.

In response to question 10.

Acceptance for surgery is based on those who meet clinical criteria (indicative threshold of 80 points or more) along with offering surgery to those who have the greatest need and who will benefit most compared to other patients with similar conditions.

In response to question 11.

Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) first specialist attendance figures are as follows:

- 2017 = 556 people
- 2020 = 253 people\*

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

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