

# Corporate Services



14 July 2021

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021070**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 17 June 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- 1. How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy in each calendar year since 2006 until the present time?***
- 2. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest/oldest/median age)?***
- 3. How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?***
- 4. How many children were referred for puberty blocking drugs in each calendar year since 2006?***
- 5. How many people had psychological treatment for gender dysphoria in each calendar year since 2006?***
- 6. How many people had double mastectomies (top surgery) as treatment for gender dysphoria in each calendar year since 2006?***
- 7. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years?***

In response to questions one, two, three, five, six and seven, it would require a manual assessment of Endocrine referrals, Paediatric referrals and Child, Adolescent and Family Services (CAFS) referrals over the last 15 years to accurately provide this data as we do not hold the information digitally.

Therefore, under section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act 1982 relating to substantial collation and research, Hawke's Bay DHB declines to provide a response to this question.

Hawke's Bay DHB can however provide the following table of information showing the volumes of patients that have been referred to Endocrine Services for the reason of "Gender Disorder" for the financial years 2014-2020:

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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

Telephone 06 878 8109 Fax 06 878 1648 Email: [ceo@hbdhb.govt.nz](mailto:ceo@hbdhb.govt.nz); [www.hawkesbay.health.nz](http://www.hawkesbay.health.nz)  
Corporate Office, Cnr Omaha Road and McLeod Street, Private Bag 9014, Hastings 4156, New Zealand

Referral Received Financial Year	Referrals	Median Age
2014	7	42
2015	5	29
2016	12	24.5
2017	19	22
2018	31	22
2019	19	25
2020	15	25

In response to question four, Hawke’s Bay DHB provides both puberty blocking therapy and cross gender steroids (also referred to as “hormone therapy”). Puberty blockade (which is largely reversible) is utilised primarily by Hawke’s Bay DHB paediatricians, with back up advice and support from Hawke’s Bay DHB and Starship endocrinology staff.

While Hawke’s Bay DHB provides this service, Hawke’s Bay DHB does not hold the data relating to these services apart from what is shown in the table above. This is largely because puberty blocking drugs are more commonly used in children for other puberty issues and the DHB does not have access to data from retail pharmacies and a review of medical notes to separate out gender identity cases would be required. Therefore under section 18 (g) of the Official Information Act relating to information not held decline to provide a response to this portion of your request.

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](mailto:SectorOIAs@moh.govt.nz)  
[oiia@hbdhb.govt.nz](mailto:oiia@hbdhb.govt.nz)