

12 July 2021

(Name and contact details redacted)

Dear (Name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021073

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 30 June 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

STAFFING NUMBERS:

- 1. How many Neurologists do you have on staff (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
Hawke's Bay DHB has 2.8 FTE Neurologists on staff.
- 2. How many Neurologists are Multiple Sclerosis Specialists on staff (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
Three Hawke's Bay DHB Neurologists are generalists and have extensive expertise and confidence in treating Multiple Sclerosis patients.
- 3. How many Neurologists on staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis**
Three, refer to response provided to questions 1 and 2 above.
- 4. How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
Hawke's Bay DHB has two/1.2 FTE neurology nurses; one/0.4 FTE outpatient clinic staff nurse and MS Nurse and one/0.6 FTE Neurology Clinical Nurse Specialist (Parkinson's Disease).
- 5. How many MS Nurse Specialists are on Staff (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
The 0.4 Outpatient clinic staff nurse spends 90% of her time working as an MS specialist nurse.

WAITING TIMES

We request the information to relate to the period from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021

- a) What is the current waiting time for a/an First Neurology outpatients' appointment**
Current waiting time for an First Specialist Appointment is seven months, however for the dedicated weekly MS clinic this is less than four months.
- b) Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment**
All patients on Disease Modifying Treatments are seen within the time period designed by the neurologist and MS nurse.
- c) Outpatient MRI**
For routine referrals (based on clinical need) the average number of days between an MRI referral being received and the MRI report being approved is 67 days.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

Telephone 06 878 8109 Fax 06 878 1648 Email: ceo@hbdhb.govt.nz; www.hawkesbay.health.nz
Corporate Office, Cnr Omahu Road and McLeod Street, Private Bag 9014, Hastings 4156, New Zealand

Note: ***This is attributed to the Covid recovery and the overall increase in service demand.***

d) Outpatient infusion appointment

Outpatient appointments are defined by the clinical protocol schedule recommended to manage the therapy administration.

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
TE PUNI RATONGA

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