

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165
carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz

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9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10365

I refer to your email dated 24 July 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

When I use the term 'puberty blockers' in this OIA I am referring to leuprorelin and goserelin.

<https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/medicines/my-medicine-has-changed/goserelin-and-leuprorelin/leuprorelin-and-goserelin/>

If you are unable to access retrospective data in regard to Questions 1 - 5, please provide current information.

1. How many under 18 year olds have a diagnosis of gender dysphoria?
 - a. How many of these youth are female? How many of these youth are male? [Feel free to express this as a ratio or percentage]
2. How many youth under 18 in your DHB have a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and have been prescribed puberty blockers within the past 12 months?
 - a. How many of these youth were biologically female? How many of these youth were biologically male?
3. How many under 18 year olds were referred by their primary health provider to endocrinology with a diagnosis of gender dysphoria in the past 12 months?
 - a. How many of these youth were female [transitioning away from female]? How many of these youth were male [transitioning away from male]?
4. How many youth under 18 in your DHB had a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and were prescribed either testosterone, or oestrogen and progesterone, between 1 January 2018 and the end of December 2018?
 - a. How many of these youth were female [transitioning away from female]? How many of these youth were male [transitioning away from male]?
5. How many youth under 18 in your DHB had a diagnosis of gender dysphoria and were prescribed either testosterone, or oestrogen and progesterone, between 1 January 2019 and the end of December 2019?
 - a. How many of these youth were female [transitioning away from female]? How many of these youth were male [transitioning away from male]?

Canterbury DHB has no central register of persons diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria, however, as at 29 July 2020 the Canterbury DHB Specialist Mental Health Service (SMHS) had, under their care, six patients under the age of 18 years with a recorded DSM IV diagnosis of Gender Identify Disorder in Adolescents.

As the numbers are so small, we are declining to provide a further breakdown i.e. number who are female or male pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect their privacy.

Please note there may be other departments who have gender dysphoria clients under their care, but these are not easily identified and for the most part the information would be held in the letters of referral or in individual patient case notes, i.e. there were 12,653 Endocrinology attendances in 2018 and 2019 calendar years. For this reason, we are declining to provide specific information pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act i.e. *"...the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research."*

We have managed to obtain some information for you, but we cannot guarantee that this covers all referrals for gender dysphoria to this department.

In 2019, the Canterbury DHB received electronic GP referrals to the Endocrinology Department for gender dysphoria for patients under 18 years of age at the date of referral, as per **Table one** (below).

Table One:

Calendar year	Number of referrals	Number of patients	Gender information - Male to Female	Gender information - Female to Male
2019	7	7	3	4

6. **Approximately how many females have presented to emergency room(s) within your DHB and declared themselves victims of domestic violence by males between 1 January 2019 and the end of December 2019?**
7. **Approximately how many females have presented to emergency room(s) within your DHB and declared themselves victims of domestic violence by males between 1 January 2020 and July 1 2020?**

Canterbury DHB does not hold this information in an easily retrievable electronic data system. To provide a response to these questions would require a manual audit of the paper-based screening tool which would take a substantial amount of time and resource. We are therefore declining to provide this information pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz; or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support