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25 November 2021

9(2)(a)

**RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10751**

I refer to your email dated 8 November 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- **How many people admitted to emergency department since 1st March until now. As well compared from 1st March 2020 until 31st December 2020. Also breakdown information on reasons for admitting to emergency department.**

Between 1 March and 31 December 2020 (10 months) there were 90,147 presentations at Canterbury DHB Emergency Departments and between 1 March and 14 November 2021 (8.5 months) there were 88,447 presentations. **Note** these time periods are not comparable.

Please find attached as **Appendix 1 – Table one** the breakdown of information on reasons for presentations. **Please also note** these are presentations and not individual patients i.e. some people may have presented more than once in the time frame requested.

I trust that 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](http://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



Tracey Maisey  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**

## 10751 Appendix 1

Table one: Canterbury DHB Emergency Department Presentations

Presenting Complaint	10 Months	8.5 months
	1 Mar - 31 Dec 2020	1 Mar - 14 Nov 2021
Abdominal pain	9,718	8,948
Injury of upper limb	7,032	7,264
Chest pain	7,006	6,952
Injury of lower limb	6,073	6,165
Shortness of breath	4,687	5,469
Fever symptoms	2,560	2,761
Injury of head	2,462	2,172
Nausea/vomiting/diarrhoea	2,298	2,091
Collapse and/or syncope	1,942	1,906
Open wound (abrasion/laceration/puncture)	1,937	1,816
Fall(s)	1,959	1,720
Pain in lower limb (no recent injury)	1,819	1,764
General weakness/fatigue/unwell	1,552	2,030
Headache	1,813	1,649
Back pain (no recent injury)	1,723	1,566
Palpitations	1,614	1,534
Mental health problem	1,444	1,546
Localised swelling or lump of skin	1,420	1,443
Overdose of drug	1,463	1,351
Dizziness/vertigo	1,254	1,013
Injury of back	1,097	1,062
Seizure	1,126	1,031
Cough	810	1,261
Altered mental state	949	969
Multiple injuries - minor	940	955
Rash	923	869
Pain in upper limb (no recent injury)	855	803
Injury of face	804	686
Toothache and/or dental infection	767	676
Sore throat	672	692
Referral for investigation	779	583
Postoperative complication	693	666
Pregnancy problem	630	640
PR bleed	650	602
Weakness of limb	646	559
Swelling of face	602	555
Injury of chest	613	508
UTI symptoms	584	502
Suicidal thoughts	542	470
Wound complication	489	500
Male genital problem	504	411
Pain in eye	462	433

Alcohol/drug intoxication or withdrawal	402	406
Nose bleed	423	365
Urinary retention	423	355
Vaginal bleeding - not pregnant	367	368
Visual disturbance	356	360
Burn	389	300
Neck pain (no recent injury)	343	330
Follow-up visit	232	422
Foreign body in eye	312	336
Blood in urine	328	293
Earache	290	330
Complication of urinary catheter	325	282
Speech problem	300	267
Injury of neck	308	255
Injury of eye	310	246
Multiple injuries - major	275	278
Plaster cast problem	217	329
Self harm	267	250
Weakness of face muscles	243	259
Altered sensation	235	245
Bite	240	232
Vomiting blood	233	239
Complication of device (not catheter)	238	208
Constipation	210	200
Pain in face	232	176
Ingestion of potentially harmful entity	170	159
Foreign body in skin	169	138
Hyperglycaemia	157	146
Script request	152	147
Foreign body in gastrointestinal tract (swallowed)	170	126
Feeding problem	151	138
Foreign body in throat	137	133
Swelling of joint (no recent injury)	133	129
Noisy breathing	134	121
Pain in groin	138	116
Red eye	125	117
Female genital problem	122	108
Mouth problem (not dental)	136	93
Coughing up blood	106	118
Abdominal distension	101	117
Situational crisis	124	92
Hypoglycaemia	110	103
Crying baby	103	108
Anxiety	106	89
Pain in anus and/or rectum	89	105
Jaundice	112	79

Abnormal behaviour	90	92
Difficulty weight bearing	92	90
Change of dressing	79	102
Breast problem	81	70
Swallowing problem	74	69
Vascular disorder of limb	71	68
Swollen legs (both)	73	60
Foreign body in ear	61	67
Injury of abdomen	67	55
Administration of medication	56	60
Noxious inhalation	64	51
Certificate and/or paperwork	58	56
Cardiac arrest	55	56
Ataxia	56	54
Foreign body in nose	58	50
Injury of nose	49	54
Discharge from eye	56	44
Swelling of tongue	40	49
Discharge from ear	39	44
Reduced urine output	47	35
Sting	44	37
Postpartum complication	31	46
Episodes of not breathing (apnoea)	34	38
Foreign body in respiratory tract (inhaled)	39	32
Injury of ear	35	36
Swollen leg (single)	28	42
Nasal congestion	31	36
Itching	28	34
Tremor	24	38
Injury of genitalia	32	25
Exposure to blood and/or body fluid	26	29
Abnormal blood test	<5	54
Amnesia	32	20
Hearing loss/tinnitus	35	17
Hypothermia	23	29
Removal of skin sutures or staples	22	29
Aggressive behaviour	16	27
Loss of appetite	24	19
Electrical injury	18	23
Stoma problem	27	13
Spontaneous bruising	18	16
Chemical exposure	12	18
Excessive urine output	21	9
Sexual assault	12	13
Insomnia	7	16
Increased muscle tone	16	6

Abnormal vital signs	<5	20
Foreign body in genitourinary tract	14	<5
Respiratory arrest	9	10
Injury of buttock	11	6
Foreign body in rectum	6	9
Drowning and non-fatal immersion	8	6
Shock from internal defibrillator	10	<5
Cyanosis	8	<5
Vaginal discharge	6	7
Exposure to communicable disease	<5	6
Abnormal imaging result	<5	10
Hiccoughs	<5	6
Injury of perineum	<5	7
Other	6	12

**Note:** We are declining to provide details where the presentation was smaller than 5 (<5) pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect individual privacy.

REFUSED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT