

# Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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### RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10048

I refer to your email dated 28 February 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- 1. How many patients were referred by their GPs to the CDHB for orthopaedic first specialist assessments (FSAs) in the year to June 31, 2018?**

There were 5799 referrals to the Canterbury DHB orthopaedic Service for a First Specialist Assessment (FSA) from GPs in the financial year to 31 June 2018.

- 2. How many of those patients were refused FSAs?**

Of those 5799 referrals, 2059 were below threshold, or had insufficient information to make a decision, or were not eligible for NZ healthcare, or were inappropriate referrals or were for service that was not required. This left 3,740 which could be acted on. Of the 3,740, only eight were not offered a First Specialist Assessment due to capacity reasons while meeting the clinical threshold. This resulted in a 99.7% acceptance rate.

Please note the number of referrals does not represent the actual number of patients being referred. For example, while some of the total referrals were returned for insufficient information, they may have been subsequently accepted when re-referred with the correct information. Similarly, patients originally below the threshold may be re-referred if their condition deteriorates.

- 3. How many patients have been referred by their GPs to the CDHB for orthopaedic FSAs so far this financial year?**

There have been 4552 referrals to the Canterbury DHB orthopaedic Service for a First Specialist Assessment (FSA) from GPs in the current financial year (2018/2019). (As at 12 March 2019)

#### 4. How many of those patients have been refused FSAs?

Of those 4552 referrals, 1755 were below threshold, or had insufficient information to make a decision, or were not eligible for NZ healthcare, or were inappropriate referrals or were for service that was not required. This left 2797 which could be acted on. Of the 2797, only 12 were not offered a First Specialist Assessment due to capacity reasons while meeting the clinical threshold. This resulted in a 99.6% acceptance rate.

Referral outcome	Financial Year	
	2018	2019*
<b>Referrals In</b>	5799	4552
• Below Threshold	-1653	-1400
• Insufficient Information	-257	-168
• Not Eligible For Public Funded Care	-111	-89
• Service Not Required / Appropriate	-37	-85
• Not Medically Fit For Service	0	-8
• No outcome reason supplied by source	0	-3
• INAPPROPRIATE REFERRAL	-1	-2
<b>Referrals Acted on</b>	3740	2797
• Return - Meets Clinical Threshold (no capacity)	8	12
<b>% Referrals Accepted</b>	99.7%	99.6%

\*2019 is as at 12 March 2019

**Note:** Definition of elective FSA excludes anyone funded by ACC, accredited employer or privately funded.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

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**