

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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9(2)(a)

### RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10762

I refer to your email dated 25 November 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

1. **How many beds were available across all wards at Christchurch public hospital 23 November 2021 between 7.00am and 3.00pm?**
2. **What was the hospital status at on the 23 November 2021 between 7.00am and 3.00pm?**
3. **What was the patient/ nurse ratio at on the 23 November 2021 between 7.00am and 3.00pm?**

Christchurch Hospital was exceptionally busy on 23rd November 2021. Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the resourced occupancy levels for our medical and surgical services for each hour you have requested. Each ward in Christchurch Hospital has a different nurse/patient ratio and to provide the patient/nurse ratio at/on 23 November 2021 between 7:00a.m and 3:00p.m. specifically would entail a substantial amount of time and resource. We are declining a response to Question 3 pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

**Table one:**

Time	Actual beds	Resourced beds	Occupancy Rate	Free Beds
0700	507	495	102.4%	0
0800	510	497	102.6%	0
0900	515	497	103.6%	0
1000	518	497	104.2%	0
1100	518	497	104.2%	0
1200	510	497	102.6%	0
1300	505	497	101.6%	0
1400	492	497	99.0%	5
1500	477	486	98.1%	9

4. **How many cardiovascular surgeons does Christchurch public hospital have/ use on their books?**

There are three Cardiothoracic surgeons employed at the Canterbury DHB and there are four full time and one .5 FTE vascular surgeons employed at the Canterbury DHB.

5. **How many orthopaedic surgeons does Christchurch public hospital have/ use on their books?**

Canterbury DHB has 25.7 FTE (headcount 31) Orthopaedic surgeons employed.

Canterbury DHB also has five Neurosurgeons who all perform spinal surgery. Two of them perform complex spinal surgery as well.

**6. How many orthopaedic elective surgeries are performed yearly through Christchurch public from 2015 to 2021?**

Please refer to **Table two** (below) for the number of orthopaedic elective surgeries performed annually through Christchurch Public from 2015 – 2021 (as at 2/12/2021\*)

**Table two**

<b>Discharge facility</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021*</b>
Burwood	2632	2696	2701	2472	2295	2174	2306
Christchurch	209	315	307	191	227	201	160
Outsourced/Outplaced	0	35	77	6	2	28	52

**7. How many people have been waiting for elective orthopaedic surgery longer than 3 years?**

As at 2/12/2021, no one has been waiting longer than three years on the Surgical waitlist.

**8. On average how many times does an orthopaedic patient have to present to the emergency department before they get surgery?**

A requirement for surgery would be based on need not number of times a person presents to our Emergency Department (ED). We do not hold the information regarding the number of times an orthopaedic patient presents to ED before they get surgery in an easily retrievable electronic data system and would require us to go manually through patient clinical records. This would take a substantial amount of time and resource. (Declined pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

**9. On average how many MRI's are performed on a single patient before they have their surgery?**

The number of MRIs performed on a single patient before they have their surgery would be based on clinical need. To provide the information requested would entail a substantial amount of time and resource. (Declined pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

**10. What is the average cost of 1 spinal MRI per patient?**

As at 14/12/2021 the cost for 1 spinal MRI would be \$1400.00

**11. On average what support services are offered to patients with a spinal injury?**

Patients with spinal cord injuries receive an extensive package of support tailored to their needs. Because the degree of impairment varies widely and not all spinal injuries result in permanent loss of function there is no 'average' package. Following discharge from orthopaedic surgery the Burwood Spinal Unit's multidisciplinary team works with the patient, their whānau and external funders such as ACC, to provide rehabilitation services and ongoing support.

**12. Is mental health support offered to patients that have to wait longer than 1 year for surgery?**

Any support of this nature would be arranged via the patient's GP.

**13. What services are offered to patients that are not eligible for the pain clinic or community services card for reason of income or they are on a waitlist for surgery?**

In addition to assessment and treatment of patients with complex and chronic pain the Pain Management Centre also provides written advice to referrers. Patients awaiting surgery are not usually eligible for services from the Pain Management Centre.

**14. How many suicides'/attempts have been reported due to pain and being on a surgical waitlist for longer than 1 year?**

We do not hold this information and are therefore declining a response to this question pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

**15. Has a study been completed on the impacts on family and destruction from getting no support in the health system or delays in getting surgery?**

Not to our knowledge.

**16. Average waitlist times men compared to women who are awaiting an orthopaedic procedure?**

The average waitlist times for people awaiting an orthopaedic procedure (men compared to women) as at 2/12/2021 is as follows:

Female 65.3 days

Male 69.4 days

**17. What help/support is offered to patients to help them come off addictive medication that they have been on for over 2 years if any?**

Clinicians with a patient that has become dependent on pain medication can access expert advice from the Canterbury DHB Alcohol and Drug Service to determine an individualised plan for withdrawal.

This could include:

- A withdrawal management plan implemented through a GP with the support of a community detox nurse.
- An inpatient withdrawal management service overseen by medical staff
- Access to a range of support services – phone, virtual and face to face.

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**