

# Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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23 August 2018

[REDACTED]

### RE Official information request CDHB 9905

We refer to your letter dated 24 July 2018 and received on 27 July 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding services experienced in our DHB by people with Multiple Sclerosis, with a particular focus on Neurology services. Specifically Appointment Numbers.

1. **How many neurology appointments were completed in the past 12 months where the patient has an indication or diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis?**
2. **How many referrals for neurology appointments were declined in the past 12 months where the patient has an indication or diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis?**
3. **How many people with an indication or subsequent diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis have attended a first Neurologist appointment?**
4. **How many people with an indication or subsequent diagnosis of have received follow up Neurologist appointments?**
5. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have received a Psychotherapy appointment?**
6. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have had a referral for a Psychotherapy appointment declined?**
7. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have received a Physiotherapy appointment?**
8. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have had a referral for a Physiotherapy appointment declined?**
9. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have received an Occupational Therapy appointment?**
10. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have had a referral for an Occupational Therapy appointment declined?**

It is difficult to identify the MS patients within the Neurology cohort of out-patient attendances without substantial research and collation; we are therefore declining under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

What we can advise is that:

- We are currently monitoring 234 people with MS who are on treatment.
- We currently have eight patients with a MS diagnosis waiting for PHARMAC approval or to start treatment. Expected wait time for approvals and treatment start is usually about two weeks.

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 ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**