

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4134
Kathleen.Smitheram@cdhb.health.nz

24 December 2021

9(2)(a)



RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10770

I refer to your email dated 24 November 2021 to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently transferred to us on 2 December 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- 1. The percentage of patients that have been declined referrals from multiple internal and external requests for gastro-intestinal department (Multiple being more than 3 separate GP/Doctor referrals) I note your clarification received 3 December 2021 advising the time frame of request is between 1 January 2010 and 1 November 2021.**

The number of unique (distinct) patients declined referrals from multiple internal and external requests for Canterbury DHB's gastro-intestinal department between January 2014 and 15 December 2021 is 13,912. Most decline reasons were due to either service not required, or appropriate for the patient, or there was insufficient capacity.

Note: We are declining to provide information prior to 2014 pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act. We do not hold the information prior to this date due to a change in our data recording system and the information is no longer easily retrievable.

The number of unique patients declined multiple times i.e. more than 3 separate GP/doctor referrals is 83 which equals 0.60%.

Over that period there were a total of 45,363 new patients seen in the gastro-intestinal department.

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; 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RLS', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Ralph La Salle
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support