

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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### RE Official information request CDHB 10534

I refer to your email dated 25 January 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding breast reduction services. Specifically:

**Specifically, I am interested in understanding in each of the last four years:**

- **How many applications have been made to the CDHB for breast reduction surgery? Of those, how many applications are accepted for first-round referrals?**

Please refer to **Table One** (below), for the number of patients who have been accepted or declined a First Specialist Assessment (FSA) referral for Breast Reduction surgery within the past four calendar years.

**Table One:** Number of accepted and declined referrals for breast reduction surgery.

Calendar Year	Accepted	Declined
2018	98	22
2019	50	14
2020	31	19

#### **Please note:**

Due to the migration to our new data system SI PICS in 2018, we can only provide accurate data on number of referrals from 2018 onwards.

In the past few years there has been an increase in the amount of cancer surgery that the department has undertaken. This means that routine work, such as non-cancer related breast reduction, has decreased due to the need to undertake cancer surgery, and has thus affected the number of referrals being accepted.

- **How many surgeries have been undertaken in each of those years?**
- **The average wait time for each patient between first application for breast reduction surgery and completion of surgery?**

Please refer to **Table Two** (overleaf), which shows the number of breast reduction surgeries undertaken in Canterbury DHB for the past four calendar years, and the average wait time for patients per year between FSA appointment and day of surgery.

**Table Two:** Number of breast reduction surgeries in Canterbury DHB and average yearly wait times.

Calendar Year	Number of Events	Avg Wait Time from Referral to Event (days)
2017	23	85
2018	41	317
2019	59	599
2020	79	426

- **The average number of applications a patient is required to undertake before their case progresses past first round referrals?**

Please refer to **Table Three** (below), which shows the total number of referrals, patients, and the average number of referrals per accepted patient for each of the past four calendar years for Canterbury DHB.

**Table Three:** Total number of referrals, patients, and average referrals per accepted patient.

Calendar Year	Total Referrals	Total Patients	Average # of Referrals per Accepted Patient
2017	139	101	1.4
2018	148	99	1.5
2019	53	50	1.1
2020	36	32	1.1

- **How many patients are currently waitlisted for breast reduction surgery?**

As of beginning of February 2021, Canterbury DHB has 24 patients currently waiting for breast reduction surgery.

- **The average cost to the CDHB for a typical double breast reduction surgery?**

The average total cost to the Canterbury DHB for a Reduction Mammoplasty – Bilateral procedure is \$8,210.00. This figure includes theatre, anaesthetist, ward, Doctor, pharmacy and laboratory costs, and includes all overheads and GST. Reduction Mammoplasty – Bilateral procedures have an average length of stay of 1 day (overnight) and an average theatre time of 200 minutes.

**Please note:** The figure stated above has been calculated using total cost of surgeries performed by the Plastics Department at Burwood and Christchurch Hospitals only and does not include patients who had breast reduction surgery due to cancer, or who had a breast lesion procedure.

In addition, the average cost was calculated using data from the 2016/17 to 2018/19 financial years. Costing data from the 2019/20 financial year is not yet available for analysis at this time.

I trust 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



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