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**RE Official information request CDHB 10326**

I refer to your email dated 2 June 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding Multiple Sclerosis, with a particular focus on Neurology services. Specifically:

**Staffing Numbers**

**1. How many Neurologists do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**

There are five Neurologists on staff working the equivalent of 6.025 FTE

**2. How many Neurologists are Multiple Sclerosis Specialists on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**

There is one Neurologist who is a Multiple Sclerosis Specialist on staff working the equivalent of 1.1 FTE

**3. How many Neurologists on your staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis?**

All our Neurologists see patients with Multiple Sclerosis

**4. How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**

There is one Neurology Nurse on staff (1 FTE)

**5. How many MS Nurse Specialists are on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**

There is one Multiple Sclerosis Nurse Specialist on staff (0.5 FTE)

## Waiting Times

We appreciate COVID-19 may impact the data so we request the information to relate to the period from April 2019 – end March 2020.

6. What is the current waiting time for a/an:

- a) First specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?
- b) Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment?
- c) Outpatient MRI?
- d) Outpatient infusion clinic appointment?

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the number of events which occurred in the period April 2019 – March 2020 where the referral reason to Neurology was 'Multiple Sclerosis'.

Table one

	Events	Distinct Patients	Average Wait Time - Days
a) First specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?	83	78	73
b) Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment	174	119	154
c) Outpatient MRI?	173	101	87
d) Outpatient infusion clinic appointment?	38	12	101

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



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