

CORPORATE OFFICE

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16 August 2021

9(2)(a)



RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10647

I refer to your email/letter dated 30 June 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

Staffing Numbers

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

There are six Neurologists on staff working the equivalent of 6.625 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)?

Canterbury DHB have 58 Neurology nurses working the equivalent of 47.5 FTE

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

x1 0.5 FTE Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) / 0.5 FTE RN

x1 0.5 FTE RN

Waiting Times - We request the information to relate to the period from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021

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 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 for referrals to Neurology Department.

Table one:

	Events	Distinct Patients	Average Wait - Days
6a) First specialist neurology outpatient appt	1273	1257	95.7
6b) Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment	1493	1134	263.7
6c) Outpatient MRI	2609	2175	77.7
6d) Outpatient infusion clinic appointment	14	<5	17.6

Please refer to **Table two** (below) for the number of events which occurred in the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 where the referral reason to Neurology was 'Multiple Sclerosis'.

Table two:

	Events	Distinct Patients	Average Wait - Days
6a) First specialist neurology outpatient appt	71	69	74.2
6b) Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment	233	183	254.2
6c) Outpatient MRI	198	185	49.6
6d) Outpatient infusion clinic appointment	6	<5	7

Please note in above tables: we are declining to provide numbers smaller than 5 under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act i.e. "...to protect individual privacy"

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



Tracey Maisey
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support