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20 May 2021

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RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10598

I refer to your email dated 3 May 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding transmasculine chest surgery. (This request being a follow-up request following our response to CDHB 10555). Specifically:

For transmasculine chest surgery(mastectomy) it was decided in 2019 to provide surgery for five transgender cases per annum.

1. What was the previous number?

None.

2. Why are only five surgeries performed per annum?

The number was chosen as part of the 2019 co-design process which was developed in collaboration with the transgender community to ensure we maintain equity of access within and around transgender and general plastic surgery patients.

3. Are there any plans/policies in place to increase this number to meet the growing demand for gender affirming surgeries?

There is no current plan/policy to increase or decrease the number of transmasculine chest surgeries. The health pathways to access surgeries remain current and are updated on a regular basis.

We have responded to similar requests in the past six months and our responses are available on our Canterbury DHB website (CDHB 10418 and 10427 specifically)
https://www.cdhb.health.nz/about-us/document-library/?_sft_document_type=official-information-act-response

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R La Salle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

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