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23 February 2022

9(2)(a)



RE Official information request CDHB 10805

I refer to your email dated 25 January 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding skin cancer referrals.

Current size of the waiting list for all skin cancer referrals to your DHB as follows:

- **Initial consultation appointment for suspected or confirmed BCC, SCC and melanoma**

We operate a see and treat service at CDHB for skin lesion removals, therefore the assessment and treatment waitlist are the same thing. Currently we have 1,164 patients (as at 21 February 2022) waiting for skin lesion removal assessment/treatment.

- **Surgical appointment for melanoma excision**
- **Surgical appointment for BCC or SCC excision**

We do not hold the detailed information if it is melanoma, BCC, SCC etc.

We are declining a response to these questions pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act i.e. *"...we do not hold this information"*.

I would also like to know to what extent, if any, your DHB funds GPs or private providers to carry out any SCC, BCC or melanoma excisions on an annual basis (e.g. for 2021).

GPs have performed 386 skin lesion removals under the Planned Care initiative (fully funded by Canterbury DHB). The planned volume for GP subsidised procedure claims for the financial year 2021/2022 (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022) is 1,032.

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



Ralph La Salle
Senior Manager, OIAs
Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB