

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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### RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10863

I refer to your email dated 29 April 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding TOP surgery wait times. I note your request was clarified/ revised on 17 May 2022 as below; Specifically:

- **On average, how long does a person have to wait after referral from their GP to be accepted for top surgery?**

**Revised: by TOP surgery I mean removal of breasts through any of the following techniques: periareolar, buttonhole Technique, double incision, keyhole, and inverted-T.**

The average time from referral to clinic assessment for top surgery is four months and the average time on the surgical waiting list is two months (i.e. time from being entered onto the waiting list until the surgery is performed).

Patients are selected by a number randomisation technique for selection for clinical assessment which occurs at roughly six-monthly intervals. During this clinical appointment the patient is assessed to ascertain that they are suitable for surgery, if they meet the criteria, they are added to the surgical waiting list.

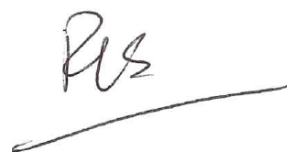
The reason for the use of a number randomisation technique is to ensure equity of access is maintained, because with the decision in 2019 to provide TOP surgery for five people per annum there was a fast uptake by informed GPs sending in referrals for their patients, creating a demand that exceeds capacity.

The number randomisation technique ensures we maintain equity within and around transgender and general plastic surgery patients.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RLS', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Ralph La Salle  
**Senior Manager, OIAs**  
**Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB**