

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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9(2)(a)

### RE Official information request CDHB 10519

I refer to your email dated 4 January 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from the Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- 1. The number of abortions that were performed pre 20 weeks and post 20 weeks at the Christchurch Women's Hospital and the Gynaecological Procedure Unit in 2020.**

In the calendar year 2020, there was a total of 1,658 pregnancy terminations performed at Christchurch Women's Hospital as inpatients and outpatients. The majority, 99% (1,638), of these occurred prior to 20 weeks' gestation and 1% (20) occurred post 20 weeks' gestation.

- 2. The number of medical and surgical abortions that were performed at the above facilities in 2020.**

Of the 1,658 terminations mentioned above, 57% (941) were surgical procedures and 43% (717) were medical procedures.

**Please note:** Some women may have had both types of procedure – a medical procedure followed by a surgical procedure.

- 3. The number of women who received pre abortion counselling at the above facilities in 2020**
- 4. The number of women who received post abortion counselling at the above facilities in 2020.**

All women seeking to have a termination have a psychosocial assessment before the procedure and are referred for support and care, as requested. All women are advised of their right to counselling pre and post termination, which is provided on site by trained social workers. Women can also choose to attend the social work clinic held at Christchurch Women's Hospital for counselling both pre and post termination.

Canterbury DHB does not centrally collect data on the total number of women who received pre or post termination counselling. We only have access to data for counselling services undertaken at Christchurch Women's Hospital social work clinic and do not have access to data regarding counselling services that women have accessed elsewhere. Consequently, we cannot provide complete figures on the number of pre and post termination counselling sessions.

We are therefore declining to provide further information for this part of the request pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act, i.e. "that the information is not held..."

I trust 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](http://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  
**Acting Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**