



## CORPORATE OFFICE

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9(2)(a)

### RE Official information request CDHB 10349 and WCDHB 9447

I refer to your email dated 7 July 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB regarding breast reconstruction following a mastectomy. Specifically:

**West Coast DHB:** This level of plastic or reconstructive surgery for women from the West Coast is undertaken through tertiary services at Canterbury DHB.

1. The number of clients who received immediate breast reconstruction following a mastectomy in 2019/20?
2. The average breast reconstruction wait time for 2019/20?

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the number of clients who received immediate breast reconstruction following a mastectomy in 2019/2020 and the average breast reconstruction wait time for 2019/2020.

**Note** this information covers both Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB.

**Table one:**

	No. of Distinct Patients	Timeliness of Reconstruction Procedure*		Average Wait Time for Reconstruction (Days) if not immediate**
		Immediate	Post Mastectomy	
<b>Canterbury</b>	51	22	31	255
<b>West Coast</b>	1	0	1	99

\***Note:** the same patient can appear in both these columns as a patient can have multiple procedures.

\*\* **Note:** this calculation is from the date the patient received certainty that they would have a reconstruction, this certainty date is established after various factors have been addressed post

mastectomy e.g. continuing cancer treatment, patient ready for surgery. The average time from mastectomy to reconstruction was 1,134 days across these patients.

**3. The number of women currently on the waitlist for reconstruction following a mastectomy?**

There are currently 58 patients who have had a mastectomy procedure and who are waiting for Breast Reconstruction.

**4. The number of women who did not meet waitlist criteria?**

We do not collect this data as we do not have exclusion criteria, patients may choose to decline reconstruction, or they may not be offered surgery due to various factors (including patient not clinically or personally ready for surgery, or insufficient capacity). We are therefore declining a response to this question under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

**5. An outline of criteria that guides / governs whether a woman seeking breast reconstruction is accepted or denied treatment?**

The criteria for breast reconstruction is oncological clearance by referring specialist; non-smoking status; BMI <32. We also take into account patients' individual medical status to assess benefit from surgical intervention versus risk to overall health.

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](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 and West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
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