

8 July 2022

9(2)(a)



Official Information Act request ChChD (Canterbury District) 10885

I refer to your email dated 31 May 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Waitaha Canterbury. Specifically:

- 1. How many children were referred for precocious puberty in each calendar year from 2006 until the most recent available year (presumably 2021)?**

We don't hold this information in an easily retrievable electronic format and to identify the information you are requesting would require a substantial amount of time and resource to manually search children's patient files. We are therefore declining a response to this question pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

- 2. How many children were being treated (i.e. total ongoing treatments) for precocious puberty in each calendar year from 2006 until the most recent available year?**

We have put a substantial amount of time and resource into looking at how we could provide you with a response to this question. We have identified 36 distinct NHIs for boys under 9 or girls under 8 that had various Gonadotrophin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonist medications dispensed by community pharmacies in the Canterbury region from 1 July 2010 to 7 March 2022.

While some of these children could be being treated for other conditions the vast majority will be precocious puberty.

We are declining to provide a breakdown of these numbers by year because each year contained less than 5 (<5) children. We are declining to do this pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect their privacy

Note: We only have access to community pharmacy data going back to 1 July 2010.

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 Waitaha Canterbury websites after your receipt of this response.

Ngā mihi / Yours sincerely,



Ralph La Salle
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Waitaha Canterbury / Te Tai o Poutini West Coast.

TeWhatuOra.govt.nz

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