



CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160

Fax: 0064 3 364 4165

Ralph.Jasalle@cdhb.health.nz

24 November 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10448 & WCDHB 9483

I refer to your email dated 29 September 2020 to the Ministry of Health, which they subsequently partially transferred to us on 13 October 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from the Canterbury DHB and the West Coast DHB relating to publicly funded fertility treatment. Specifically:

2. How many of these treatments resulted in a live birth OR the birth of multiple babies e.g. twins/triplets etc.

Please refer to **Table One** (below) which shows live births (both single births and multiple births) for the last three years from treatments in 2016, 2017 and 2018:

Table One

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/2019	Total
Single births	130	170	210	510
Multiple births	2	0	2	4

(Data source: Fertility Associates Annual Reports)

3. If known, please break this down by relationship types e.g. male/female, same sex, individuals, age groups (e.g. woman 20-25; 26-30; 31-35; 36-40; 41-45) and by District Health Board if able.

None of the South Island DHBs, nor the contracted provider, Fertility Associates, record relationship details as requested. We are declining to provide this information pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act, i.e. "that the information requested is not held..."

Please refer to **Table Two and Table three** respectively (overleaf) which show the total number of infertility service visits by age group and gender for the past three financial years.

Table two: Infertility service visits for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 by age group *

Age group	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
10 to 14	1	6	3	10
15 to 19	31	28	49	108
20 to 24	70	103	106	279
25 to 29	367	342	305	1014
30 to 34	696	668	623	1987
35 to 39	746	712	631	2089
40 to 44	192	157	190	539
45 to 49	23	20	23	66
50 to 54	16	10	6	32
55 to 59	6	7	3	16
60 to 64	2	1	1	4
65 to 69			1	1
70 to 74		1		1
Total	2150	2055	1941	6146

*Note (Data source: National Non-Admitted Patient Collection)

Table three: Infertility service visits for 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 for South Island DHBs by Gender*

Gender	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
Female	1843	1739	1585	5167
Male	307	321	359	987
Total	2150	2060	1944	6154

*Note (Data source: National Non-Admitted Patient Collection)

4. The names of the private company used to administer public fertility treatments and the amount of taxpayer funding they have received for providing these services each year for the past three years (e.g. Fertility Associates \$XX million total: 2018: X 2019: X. 2020: X)

Canterbury DHB, on behalf of Nelson Marlborough, West Coast, South Canterbury and Southern DHBs, contracts Fertility Associates to provide publicly funded tertiary infertility services for the South Island DHBs.

The funding per annum for the publicly funded service is \$2,966,655.60 – this is a fixed funding amount per annum, which is a total of \$8,899,966.80 for the three years requested.

5. Please break this information down by the various forms of fertility treatment available under the public system.

Please refer to **Table four** (overleaf) for a breakdown of the total number of visits for each tertiary infertility service type for the past three financial years.

Table four: Infertility service visits for 2017/2018, 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 for South Island DHBs by Procedure Type*

Procedure type	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Total
Fertility Services- 1st Attendance	384	458	376	1218
Thawed Embryo Replacement	395	384	362	1141
Fertility Services-Subsequent Attendance	376	316	321	1013
Annual Storage of Sperm	219	272	281	772
IVF Programme- first cycle	238	214	165	617
Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) Addition	211	140	125	476
IVF standard second cycle	60	64	50	174
Sperm Freezing	47	30	76	153
Annual Storage of Eggs	37	50	54	141
Surgical Retrieval of Sperm	36	28	17	81
Cancelled IVF Cycle	26	25	26	77
Incomplete IVF Cycle	34	17	23	74
PGD Biopsy and Testing	23	23	19	65
Donor Egg	24	18	12	54
PGD Fertility Feasibility Test	26	8	3	37
Donor Insemination	9	4	14	27
Egg Retrieval and Freezing	2	6	12	20
Intrauterine insemination - Simple			7	7
Surrogacy Procedures	2	2	1	5
Intrauterine insemination with hyper stimulation		1		1
Male and Female microsurgery	1			1
Total	2150	2060	1944	6154

*Note (Data source NNPAC)

We are however, declining to break the costs down by the various forms of fertility treatment pursuant to section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act i.e. “...would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information”.

6. Outline the total costs of these treatments to the taxpayer for each year for the past three years.

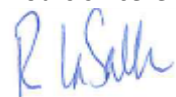
Please refer to our response to Question 4 above.

I trust 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.

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.

Yours sincerely



Ralph La Salle

**Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support**