

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

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RE Official information request CDHB 9950.

We refer to your email dated 13 September 2018 to Ministry of Health which was subsequently transferred to Canterbury DHB on 28 September 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act.

Regarding 'public hospital surgery cancellation rates' in the year ended 30 June 2018. What does the data reveal?

Canterbury DHB does not collect data on surgery cancellation rates. While we record a surgery cancellation in our patient management system, the vast majority of these cancellations will be rebooked for surgery within a reasonable timeframe and would therefore be considered to be rescheduling of surgery.

There are many reasons why scheduled operations may be cancelled/rescheduled such as:

- specialist surgeons and anaesthetists are unable to attend on the day due to illness or other personal circumstances,
- acute emergency surgery taking precedence over planned (elective) procedures,
- patients who are unwell on the day of planned surgery, or who simply do not show up.

It is rare that a patient who is on the waitlist and booked for surgery would have a permanent cancellation of surgery. The most likely reasons for this would be the patient deciding not to proceed with surgery, opting to have surgery privately or the death of a patient pending a surgical procedure.

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 'Greg Hamilton', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Greg Hamilton

Acting Executive Director

Planning, Funding & Decision Support