

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

CORPORATE OFFICE

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9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10286

I refer to your email dated 10 March 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

1. **The public waitlist for a hysterectomy from first referral from Gynaecological Specialist to first hospital appt. (last 12 months).**
2. **The waitlist from first hospital assessment to hysterectomy procedure (last 12 months).**
3. **The number of people declined treatment for the above.**

Patients are not referred for a hysterectomy, the decision for a hysterectomy is made after a First Specialist Assessment (FSA) and any necessary follow ups and/or tests.

Due to the capacity in Gynaecology we can only perform surgery on urgent cases. If after the FSA the consultant believes an urgent hysterectomy is clinically indicated then they will go on the waitlist and receive surgery within three months.

In the 2019 calendar year 196 patients had a hysterectomy, the average wait time was 91.4 days from when they were added to the waitlist to the date of procedure. There are currently (as at 18 /3/19) 49 patients on the waitlist for this procedure.

Because patients aren't specifically referred for a hysterectomy we do not hold the data in an easily retrievable electronic system on the number of people who were declined this surgery or who were referred back to their General Practitioner, and to provide this information would require us going through individual patient files which would require a substantial amount of time and resource. We are therefore declining question 3 pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

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 Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support