



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400
Fax 03 769-7791

8 May 2018

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RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9124

I refer to your letter dated 19 April 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

1. The total number of MRI Examinations outsourced from 1.10.2017 to 31.3.2018

There is no MRI service provided on the West Coast, it is completely outsourced to PRG (Pacific Radiology Group) in Christchurch. Referrals go via electronic interface to PRG. PRG invoice ACC for those that are ACC claimable and invoice West Coast DHB for the remainder.

In the period requested there were 312 direct referrals to PRG from West Coast DHB. Canterbury DHB will also outsource specialist referrals on our behalf and I understand this information will be included in their response to your OIA request to them on this topic.

2. The total cost of MRI outsourcing from 1.10.2017 to 31.3.2018

For the last financial year ACC referrals were 16% of all referrals, so we have subtracted 16% from the 312 when calculating the cost of MRI outsourcing (below).

\$167,680 West Coast DHB + \$32,000 referred by Canterbury DHB SMOs and paid for by West Coast DHB.

3. Total number of qualified MRI MRTs employed as at 31.3.2018 (headcount)

4. Total Actual MRI MRT FTE at 31.3.18

5. Total Budgeted MRI MRT FTE at 31.3.18

6. The total number of MRI Trainees as at 31.1.2018 (headcount)

7. Total Actual MRI Trainee FTE at 31.3.18

8. Total Budgeted MRI Trainee FTE at 31.3.18

There are no MRI staff employed at the West Coast DHB.

9. The total number of MRI Machines – please identify sites

10. The total number of additional MRI machines planned in the next two years

There are no MRI machines currently at the West Coast DHB. Due to projected future service demands and associated cost increases, a local delivery of service model may be developed when this seems appropriate and /or achievable.

11. The current waitlist time for MRI.

The current wait time for an MRI is 2-3 weeks on average. **Note:** Most wait times are due to the patient's own schedule as they require a trip to Christchurch and will often arrange the MRI to fit in with other appointments.

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 West Coast DHB website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping underline.

Carolyn Gullery
General Manager
Planning, Funding & Decision Support