



# *West Coast District Health Board*

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## *Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini*

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12 September 2018

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**RE: Official information request WCDHB 9178**

We refer to your letter dated 24 July 2018 and received on 27 July 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding services experienced in our DHB by people with Multiple Sclerosis, with a particular focus on Neurology services. Specifically Appointment Numbers.

1. **How many neurology appointments were completed in the past 12 months where the patient has an indication or diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis?**
2. **How many referrals for neurology appointments were declined in the past 12 months where the patient has an indication or diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis?**
3. **How many people with an indication or subsequent diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis have attended a first Neurologist appointment?**
4. **How many people with an indication or subsequent diagnosis of have received follow up Neurologist appointments?**

The West Coast DHB does not employ any Neurologists. Patients requiring the care of these services are referred to our regional tertiary provider, the Canterbury DHB. Their response to your Official Information Act request in regard to Questions 1 – 4 will be inclusive of services provided to people from the West Coast DHB district within the Christchurch-based regional services.

The Canterbury service provides a visiting one-day outpatient neurology service on the West Coast, currently visiting to provide these outpatient clinics at Grey Base Hospital six times per year. The aetiology of patients attending outpatient clinics is not coded.

5. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have received a Psychotherapy appointment?**
6. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have had a referral for a Psychotherapy appointment declined?**
7. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have received a Physiotherapy appointment?**
8. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have had a referral for a Physiotherapy appointment declined?**
9. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have received a Occupational Therapy appointment?**
10. **How many people with a diagnosis of MS have had a referral for a Occupational Therapy appointment declined?**

We do not hold data relating to multiple sclerosis patients to enable us to provide you with answers to Questions 5-10 as they relate to services not provided locally on the West Coast. We are therefore declining to respond to these questions under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

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 after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

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

Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**