



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

31 May 2019

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9304

I refer to your email dated 2 May 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB.

- **A breakdown by specialty, of the number of orthopaedic FSA referrals received by the WCDHB, and the number of rejections, since June 30 last year, and for the preceding year.**

The orthopaedic department simply records referrals to the service in its own right. It does not separate out by sub specialty type for the purposes of recording first specialist appointments. We are therefore unable to provide you any data broken down by specialty within orthopaedics as requested, and decline to answer this aspect of your enquiry under Section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act i.e.: “...that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research”. However what we are able to provide to help with your enquiry is data for the overall orthopaedic service itself.

Table one: Orthopaedic referrals received 2017/18

Financial year 2017/2018				
Referred to Orthopaedic Dept. ¹	Returned ²	Referrals accepted (met threshold) ³	Attended FSA appointment at Grey Base Hospital	Orthopaedic follow up attendances made at Grey Base Hospital ⁴
822	325	497	341	542

Table two: Orthopaedic referrals received year to date

Financial year 1 July 2018/ 30 April 2019 – year to date				
Referred to Orthopaedic Dept. ¹	Returned ²	Referrals accepted (met threshold) ³	Attended FSA appointment at Grey Base Hospital	Orthopaedic follow up attendances made at Grey Base Hospital ⁴
479	351	128	235	377

Notes:

1. These figures excludes multiple referrals for the same patient
2. Referrals returned include those that were below threshold, had insufficient information to make a clinical decision, were not eligible for New Zealand health care, or were inappropriate referrals or for service that was not required.
3. 100% of referrals that met the threshold in each year were accepted.
4. There may be more than one follow up appointment for the same patient.

Please note that focussing only on the orthopaedic referral received understates the orthopaedic activity during the year. In addition to the FSA and follow-up Specialist outpatient attendances conducted on the West Coast over the ten months 1 July 2018 to 30 April 2019 listed above, there have been 41 hip replacement and 45 knee replacement procedures from the public waiting list undertaken locally at Grey Base Hospital.

During this same 10-month period, there have been 388 orthopaedic public (non-ACC) patients discharged from Grey Base Hospital, including 188 acute patients and 200 elective patients. Of these, 70 acute patients and 153 elective cases had operation procedures undertaken.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

If you disagree with our decision to withhold information you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek an investigation and review of our decision from 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 West Coast 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 line extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support