



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth

Telephone 03 768 0499
Fax 03 768 2791

2 March 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9390

I refer to your email dated 13 December 2019 to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently partially transferred to us on 3 February 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically, regarding addiction services question 3 a,b and c.

1. **Can you please provide a list of the different types of addiction services people can access through the public health system?**
2. **How many rehab and detox beds are currently available through the public health system for people addicted to drugs and alcohol?**

We understand that the Ministry of Health is responding to question 1 and 2 above.

3. **How many people were put on a waitlist to access detox and rehab addiction services each year over the past four years (2016 – 2019)?**
 - a. **Can each year please be broken down into months i.e. the number of people each month put on a waitlist?**
 - b. **Can the waitlisted people please be broken down into category i.e. what service it was that they were wanting to access, and were subsequently waitlisted for?**
 - c. **Can you please categorise these waitlisted people into wait-times i.e. those who had to wait 5 weeks, 6 weeks, 7 weeks and so on?**

West Coast DHB clients are referred to either Canterbury DHB or Nelson/Marlborough DHB (Blenheim) to access detox and rehabilitation addiction services. The information is not held in an easily retrievable data system and to provide the information requested over the past four years would necessitate us manually reviewing all our client files.

I refer you to our response to the same request for Canterbury DHB CDHB 10264 **Appendix 1 Table one** (please find attached). Canterbury DHB Specialist Mental Health Service does not operate waitlists for either the local Community Alcohol and Drug Service, Canterbury Opioid Substitution Service or Kennedy Detoxification Inpatient Unit; or for the Regional Service it provides. The data in Appendix 1 Table one showing the wait time from referral to treatment commencement includes referrals from West Coast DHB. However, it is not possible to separate them out without checking individual patient files to check their domicile address.

We are therefore declining your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act *i.e.* *"...the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research."*

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 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

Appendix 1 Table one: Wait time from referral to treatment commencing for calendar years 2018 and 2019 – broken down by the Specialist Mental Health Service and the number of patients.

[illegible]