



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth 7840

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16 May 2022

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9689

I refer to your email dated 27 April 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB: Specifically:

Time frame of request:

Covering a 12 month period from 1 March 2021 to 28 Feb 2022.

Covering a 12 month period from 1 March 2016 to 28 Feb 2017.

- 1. Please provide the length of time for patients on the waiting list who were referred by their GP to Specialist in your district (incl. count of events and average wait days) for the following:***
 - a. Hip replacement***
 - b. Knee replacement***
 - c. Hysterectomy (or general gynae)***
 - d. Breast reconstruction***
 - e. Gall bladder***
 - f. CT/MRI/PET scan***
 - g. colonoscopy***
- 2. Please provide the length of time for patients on the waiting list, who are awaiting surgery in your district (incl. count of events and average wait days) for the following:***
 - a. Hip replacement***
 - b. Knee replacement***
 - c. Hysterectomy***
 - d. Breast reconstruction***
 - e. Gall bladder***
 - f. CT/MRI/PET scan.***
- 3. Could you please provide the average wait time for patients being treated with the following cancers: (include count of events and avg days)***
 - a. Lung***
 - b. Breast***
 - c. Cervical***
 - d. Bowel***
 - e. Prostate***
 - f. Skin***
- 4. Please feel free to provide any explanation or clarification which will help me understand the above data.***

Waiting lists for outpatient assessments and for surgical and diagnostic services are dynamic and literally change from day to day due to additions and removals.

We do not hold readily available retrospective records from which we can provide you with average waiting times for the specific procedure and diagnostic types listed in your request over the twelve-month periods from 1 March 2016 to 28 February 2017 and from 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022, and could not do so without extensive and complex reconstruction of waiting times of all patients who may have been referred, and who may have been treated for the various individual treatments and diagnostics listed in your enquiry during these periods.

Adding to this complexity, West Coast does not code referrals to our various outpatient service waiting lists by referral or presentation reason and does not have individualised waiting lists for specific procedure and diagnostic types listed in your request; only by service category (for example; general surgery, general medicine, orthopaedics, gynaecology, etc.).

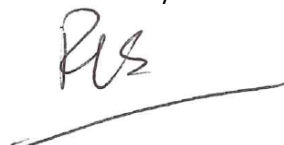
This would require significant manual review of individual patient case note records. We therefore decline to provide additional information in this regard under Section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act i.e. *"... that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research."*

We note that breast reconstruction surgery, PET and MRI scans, and radiotherapy as a treatment option for cancer tumours is not undertaken locally on the West Coast.

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Rls', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ralph La Salle
Senior Manager, OIAs
Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB