

7 April 2020

**Re Official Information Request – Surgical Waiting Times**

I refer to your official information request dated 27 February 2020 requesting the following information.

**I am asking all DHBs around the country to provide me with some information on hospital waiting times for urgent surgical cases.**

- 1. In the past 12 months, in terms of surgery that has been classified as "urgent" by the DHB, how many patients have been told they would need to wait 20 weeks, 30 weeks or 40 weeks or more for their procedure?**

**Please provide a breakdown to show the figures of the number of patients for each waiting time estimation.**

Having reviewed our adult services' acute waiting times, we have not found any cases where our patients have been classified as clinically urgent and have been placed on a waitlist and told they have to wait 20, 30 or 40 weeks for treatment.

- 2. When referring to "surgery", I'm seeking information on waiting times for general surgery, urology, gynecology, ophthalmology or neurology.**

**Please provide a breakdown to show the corresponding wait times for each of these surgical specialities.**

Cases that are clinically urgent would be classified as acute. There is no waitlist for acute cases, they are all treated in urgent-time frames. Therefore, we are unable to provide an answer for this question in relation to urgent cases and are declining this section of your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested does not exist.

However, if it is helpful to you, we have provided below the wait times for routine surgery which is not considered acute or urgent.

Waiting Times for Routine Planned Care Patients at ADHB (Non-“urgent”)

Specialty	Waiting > 4 months	Waiting > 3 months	Waiting > 2 months	Waiting > 1 month	Waiting <= 1 month	Total number of bookings
Ophthalmology	693	1491	1429	1838	1650	7101
Gen Surgery	266	425	647	758	1135	3231
Urology	187	180	206	320	372	1265
Gynaecology	10	71	114	141		339
Neurosurgery	80	40	49	75	292	536

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive