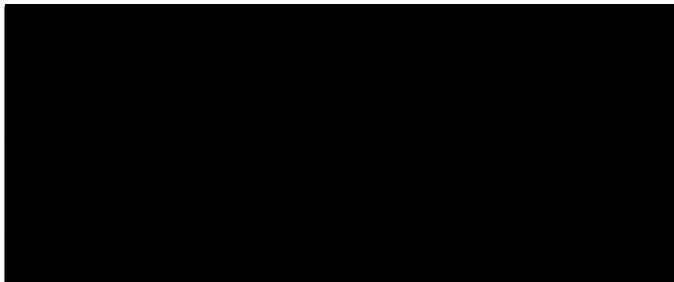


3 March 2021



Re: Official Information Act request – Gynaecology and mental health

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 9 February 2021 requesting the following information:

Can I please request the following from your DHB:

On the topic of women's health:

1. **Waiting times for urogynaecology**
2. **Waiting times for colorectal surgery**
3. **Waiting times for pelvic physiotherapy**
4. **Staffing levels for gynaecologists/urogynaecologists and physiotherapists**
5. **Staffing levels for specialist pelvic physiotherapists.**

On the topic of mental health:

1. **Deaths occurring in mental health in-patient unit each year, for the last five years, and the cause of death (or suspected cause)**
2. **Deaths of former mental health in-patients occurring within one week of discharge, and cause of death (or suspected cause). Figures for each year, for the last five years please.**
3. **How many of these deaths were referred to the coroner? Figures for each year, for five years please.**
4. **Staffing levels for psychiatrists; psychologists and nursing**

1. Waiting times for urogynaecology

All patients referred for urogynaecology appointments are seen within 120 days of receipt of the referral.

2. Waiting times for colorectal surgery

Over the past year, the average wait time for surgery completed by our Colorectal Surgeons was 46 days.

3. Waiting times for pelvic physiotherapy

100% of patients of priority one (urgent referrals) appointments are seen within 42 days from referral.

30% of patients of priority two patients (non-urgent referrals) have first appointments within 42 days from referral.

The current maximum wait time for priority two (non-urgent referrals) 140 days.

4. Staffing levels for gynaecologists/urogynaecologists and physiotherapists

There are 3 Urogynaecologists covering approximately 1.6FTE. In addition there are 25 Senior Medical Officers who offer gynaecology care as part or all of their job plans. Auckland DHB has no vacancies in Urogynaecology or Gynaecology SMO positions. Staffing levels for physiotherapists are provided in the answer to question 5.

5. Staffing levels for specialist pelvic physiotherapists

The Pelvic Health/Women's Physiotherapy team has 5.15 FTE, with 0.6 FTE a current vacancy since March 2020. The 0.6FTE role was advertised and did not attract suitable candidates. It is now being held pending an anticipated skill-mix review of the team. There will be an upcoming 0.2 FTE vacancy as well as 0.3 FTE Maternity leave cover, both from April 2021.

On the topic of mental health:

1. Deaths occurring in mental health in-patient unit each year, for the last five years, and the cause of death (or suspected cause)

8 patients have died in the past five years in a mental health in-patient unit. Due to the risk of patients being identified, we are declining to provide a breakdown by year or the suspected cause of death under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act - to protect protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

2 Deaths of former mental health in-patients occurring within one week of discharge, and cause of death (or suspected cause). Figures for each year, for the last five years please.

To our knowledge only one patient has died within one week of being discharged from an inpatient unit in the past five years. Due to the risk of patients being identified, we are declining to provide a suspected cause of death under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act - to protect protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

3 How many of these deaths were referred to the coroner? Figures for each year, for five years please.

All of these deaths were referred to the coroner.

4 Staffing levels for psychiatrists; psychologists and nursing

	Budget for FTE	Number of vacant FTE
Psychiatrists	107.41	3.6
Allied Health (inclusive of Psychologists)	260.8	19.7(4.1 FTE of this vacancy is for psychology)
Nursing	365.56	31.9

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 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 of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)

