

9 August 2021



Re: Official Information Act request – Respiratory Service

I refer to your Official Information Act request received dated 15 July 2021 requesting the following information:

Information on the waitlist for outpatient sleep studies, specifically (for respiratory service):

- 1. The criteria to prioritise patients on the waitlist; I have been advised that 100+ patients deemed urgent or critical who have been given an appointment, while for the 1000+ deemed routine they are unlikely to be seen for years.**

The service prioritises sleep studies based on risk. High priority studies are managed on an urgent basis to reduce disparity in health outcomes by addressing the highest priority health needs first. Patients who are not deemed urgent, as assessed by individual health needs and relative to other high-risk patients, are seen routinely.

- 2. How is ADHB managing its 'duty of care' in respect to the routine patients on the list?**

Routine patients are able to be added to a short-notice list, where they are contacted by telephone for open slots at short-notice (due to patient cancellations or reschedules). Patients can be re-referred or re-assessed should their health needs or circumstances change.

Currently 567 patients are on the PSG waitlist. 45 are on the urgent list, with an average wait time of 4 weeks. The remainder are on the routine list, with an average wait time of 9 months.

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)