

12 November 2021

Response to a request for official information

Thank you for your request for official information received 14 September 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH), followed by the necessary extension of time 12 October 2021 and notice of decision 10 November 2021, where you seek the following information:

- 1. Any reports, ministerial briefings, internal or external emails or work looking at the effect of last year's Covid-19 lockdown disruption on cervical cancer treatments and screenings/smears.***

Response:

We are not aware of any reports or ministerial briefings looking at disruption on cervical cancer treatments and screening/smears as a result of the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown.

It would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually search internal email communication on this topic and, as such, NMH declines a response to this element of your request under section 18(f) *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*.

- 2. Any data, reports, ministerial briefings and internal or external emails estimating or discussing the number of cervical cancer smears that have been or are expected to be missed due to the August 2021 lockdown.***

Response:

We are not aware of any data, reports or ministerial briefings estimating volumes of missed cervical cancer smears as a result of the 2021 Covid-19 lockdown.

It would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually search internal email communication on this topic and, as such, NMH declines a response to this element of your request under section 18(f) *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*.

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz

NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lexie O'Shea', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive