

5 May 2020

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Via Email: [REDACTED]

## Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 24 April 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, where you seek the following information:

***We have had an approach from a local constituent who appears to have fallen into a hole between ACC & DHB eligibility for surgery. Despite nearing the eligibility age for National Super he is in otherwise good health and does not wish to cease paid work. Unfortunately it seems his circumstances are working against him returning to work workout this surgery as his preferred and past roles have often been in carer roles which require some strength and ability to restrain or support others.***

- 1. For this reason we lodge a request to understand the general criteria of the DHB when clinical need for surgery exists.***

### DHB response

Eligibility for publicly funded treatment is determined by Clinical Priority. A patient is referred to the DHB from their primary care provider and the referral letter contains information with regard to the patient's clinical condition.

This information is reviewed by clinical staff within the appropriate service to determine if the referral meets the threshold for treatment. If the threshold is met, the referral is prioritised into a clinical timeframe and the patient will receive an appointment within that timeframe.

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](http://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](mailto:OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Bramley  
**Chief Executive**

---

<sup>1</sup> Nelson Marlborough District Health Board