

4 May 2020

Via Email: [REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 24 February 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 20 March 2020 and notice of decision 22 April 2020, where you seek the following information:

1. *The number of patients currently on the DHB's ophthalmology wait list (at February 1, 2020)*

TABLE 1

Inpatient surgical wait list	196
Outpatient wait list	3465

2. *A breakdown of how long these patients have been waiting for appointments -- broken down by the time between the initial referral and first appointment, and those waiting for/overdue for follow-up appointments (as at February 1, 2020)*

TABLE 2

Surgical inpatient wait list	Number of surgical inpatients waiting past treat-by date at 1 February 2020	Number of surgical inpatients due for surgery after 1 February 2020
	20	176

TABLE 3

Outpatient wait list	Number of outpatients waiting past treat-by date at 1 February 2020	Number of outpatients due for assessment after 1 February 2020
First Specialist Appointment (FSA)	68	190
Follow-up appointment	895	2312

TABLE 4

Number waiting for follow up appointments	FSA	Follow up
Number who have waited greater than 50% longer than intended time for appointment	15	218
Number who have waited greater than 100% longer than intended time for appointment	7	122

3. *The number of patients referred/transferred from the DHB's ophthalmology service to private providers or other outside contractors, broken down by calendar year from 2008-2019*

TABLE 5

2008	46
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¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

2009	36
2014	20
2015	8
2016	15
2017	49

4. The number of dedicated clinics (including, but not exclusive to: catch-up clinics, weekend and evening clinics) over and above held by the DHB broken down by calendar year

Our patient management system does not capture this information.

5. The number of adverse events recorded by the DHB due to ophthalmology delays

OPTION A

NMH identified 35 files relating to ophthalmology delays and follow-up since 2015, when the DHB Incident Management System was introduced.

**Data Quality
Caveat**

Note not all ophthalmology delays resulted in an adverse outcome for the patient therefore not all cases have been classified as an adverse event that warranted a full review and reporting.

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. I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public 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



Dr Peter Bramley
Chief Executive

cc: Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz