

6 August 2020



Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information received 2 June 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 30 June 2020 and notice of decision 28 July 2020 where you seek the following information:

Staffing Numbers

1. How many Neurologists do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

One Neurologist – 0.8 FTE

One Neurologist with subspecialty movement disorders – quarterly visits (12 days annually)

Locum services to manage demand 1 week a month (generally not Multiple Sclerosis work)

One Physician – 0.3 FTE with subspecialty interest in Neurology

One Physician – 0.3 FTE in Neurology rehabilitation role.

2. How many Neurologists are Multiple Sclerosis Specialists on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

One Neurologist will see all Multiple Sclerosis patients when treatment options are available.

3. How many Neurologists on your staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis?

All above mentioned staff.

4. How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

One Neurology Nurse (0.5 FTE).

5. How many MS Nurse Specialists are on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

One Neurology Nurse (0.35 of a 0.5 FTE role).

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

Waiting Times from April 2019 - end March 2020.

6. What is the current waiting time for a/an:

a) First specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?

130 days.

b) Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment?

89 days (first Specialist appointment to first Follow Up appointment).

c) Outpatient MRI?

As at end May 2020, booked to triage category (no extended wait time).

d) Outpatient infusion clinic appointment?

Nil data specific to Multiple Sclerosis or Neurology is available.

173 days for all medical specialties; medical infusion clinics are held under General Medicine. This data is subject to patients referred and seen by NMH, then having treatment at a tertiary DHB, and returning for sporadic infusions.

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'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



Dr Peter Bramley
Chief Executive