

19 July 2021

Via Email: [REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information as a transfer from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and received 21 June 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, where you ask:

1. *Can Ministry of Health release colonoscopy decline data for the last five years?*
 - a. *If possible, it would be good to have this data presented monthly, and as up to date as possible*
 - b. *This data should be presented by DHB area, with raw numbers as well as percentages, please*

NMH response: NMH prioritises all referrals received against national clinical criteria. Where those referrals meet clinical criteria then they are accepted for a colonoscopy. Some referrals are reviewed and it may be determined that a First Specialist Assessment is needed (prior to, or instead of) a colonoscopy and those referrals would therefore not be accepted for a colonoscopy but transferred for another service.

Table One shows the number of referrals that did not meet the threshold for colonoscopy by Financial Year (FY) and Month, noting data prior to 2017 is not readily retrievable due to changing Information Systems.

TABLE ONE

Month	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Jan	1	7	6	5
Feb		1	12	20
Mar	2	12	15	13
Apr		4	71	6
May	7	7	6	14
Jun	5	14	21	30
Jul		15	8	14
Aug		12	4	14
Sep		3	9	14
Oct		6	12	14
Nov		5	21	8
Dec		24	24	14

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lexie O'Shea', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive