

31 May 2022



Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information received 22 April 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 25 May 2022, where you seek the following information.

1. *"The length of time for patients on the waiting list who were referred by their GP to Specialist in your district (incl. count of events and average wait days) for the following:*
 - a. *Hip replacement*
 - b. *Knee replacement*
 - c. *Hysterectomy (or general gynae)*
 - d. *Breast reconstruction*
 - e. *Gall bladder*
 - f. *CT/MRI/PET scan*
 - g. *Colonoscopy*
 - (i) *Covering a 12 month period from 1 March 2021 to 28 Feb 2022.*
 - (ii) *Covering a 12 month period from 1 March 2016 to 28 Feb 2017."*

NMH response:

Waiting times to first specialist appointment (FSA)

Please note, contextual information is included in this response to support the data definitions applied to meet your questions.

Breast reconstruction and positron emission tomography (PET) scans for NMH patients are performed at other DHBs.

Computerized tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) referrals, as recorded in Tables One and Two, are Outpatient events.

The majority of Colonoscopies are performed in an Outpatient setting.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

Table One outlines average days waiting from referral to FSA, for the two specified timeframes.

TABLE ONE Average days waiting		
Condition	Mar-16 to Feb-17	Mar-21 to Feb-22
Hip Replacement	78.9	101.3
Knee Replacement	93.1	112.5
Hysterectomy	70.8	71.1
Gall Bladder	84.3	86.7
Colonoscopy	42.9	89.4
CT/MRI scans	33.2	13.1

Table Two outlines the count of events, for the two specified timeframes.

TABLE TWO Count of events		
Condition	Mar-16 to Feb-17	Mar-21 to Feb-22
Hip Replacement	101	221
Knee Replacement	71	213
Hysterectomy	73	148
Gall Bladder	32	121
*Colonoscopy	411	733
CT/MRI scans	907	1352

***NOTE:** Increased Colonoscopy referral numbers can, in part, be attributed to the National Bowel Screening programme implementation in Nelson in August 2018

2. ***“The length of time for patients on the waiting list, who are awaiting surgery in your district (incl. count of events and average wait days) for the following:***
 - a. ***Hip replacement***
 - b. ***Knee replacement***
 - c. ***Hysterectomy***
 - d. ***Breast reconstruction***
 - e. ***Gall bladder***
 - f. ***CT/MRI/PET scan.***
 - (i) ***Covering a 12 month period from 1 March 2021 to 28 Feb 2022.***
 - (ii) ***Covering a 12 month period from 1 March 2016 to 28 Feb 2017.”***

NMH response:

Length of time on waitlist for surgery

Breast reconstruction and PET scans for NMH patients are performed at other DHBs.

CT and MRI cases, as recorded in Tables Three and Four, are Inpatient events.

A minority of Colonoscopies are performed in an Inpatient setting, noting long term routine follow-ups are excluded.

Table Three outlines average days on the waitlist for surgery, for the two specified timeframes.

TABLE THREE Average days waiting		
Condition	Mar-16 to Feb-17	Mar-21 to Feb-22
*Hip	105.9	173.3
*Knee	114.6	192.9
Hysterectomy	78.0	84.1
Gall Bladder	79.3	105.7
Colonoscopy	44.0	162.5
CT/MRI scans	0.6	0.7

***NOTE:** Increased waiting times for planned care Hip and Knee (orthopaedic) cases can, in part, be attributed to an increase in orthopaedic trauma cases

Table Four outlines the count of events, for the two specified timeframes.

TABLE FOUR Count of events		
Condition	Mar-16 to Feb-17	Mar-21 to Feb-22
Hip Replacement	213	162
Knee Replacement	173	154
Hysterectomy	126	92
Gall Bladder	135	74
Colonoscopy	28	23
CT/MRI scans	3092	3052

3. “The average wait time for patients being treated with the following cancers: (include count of events and avg days)

a. Lung

b. Breast

c. cervical

d. Bowel

e. Prostate

f. Skin

(i) Covering a 12 month period from 1 March 2021 to 28 Feb 2022.

(ii) Covering a 12 month period from 1 March 2016 to 28 Feb 2017.

NMH response:

Faster Cancer Treatment (FCT)

Table Five outlines average days waiting as the time from the date of decision to treat FCT cases to the first definite appointment, for the two specified timeframes.

TABLE FIVE Average days waiting		
Condition	Mar-16 to Feb-17	Mar-21 to Feb-22
Lung	59.0	10.0
Breast	19.4	11.0
Cervical	11.1	13.6
Bowel	11.6	11.2
Prostate	21.5	26.6
Skin	24.3	16.8

Table Six outlines the count of events, for the two specified timeframes.

TABLE SIX Count of events		
Condition	Mar-16 to Feb-17	Mar-21 to Feb-22
Lung	93	96
Breast	108	120
Cervical	38	47
Bowel	133	152
Prostate	93	130
Skin	89	79

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



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive