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16 November 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: OIA request – Number of bariatric surgeries from 2015 to 2020**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 1 November 2021 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the number of bariatric surgeries and the age and ethnicity of patients.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

**By calendar year and for 2015 - 2020, the number of bariatric surgeries carried out and the age and ethnicity of the patients. Please include the age of the youngest patient who has received this surgery over this period.**

Between 2015 – 2020, there were a total of 640 bariatric surgeries performed, with the age of the youngest patient in the 19-22-year age bracket. Please note that we have provided the ages of patients in bands and withheld figures that are four or less under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of individual patients. Disclosing the patients' exact ages and the precise numbers where there are fewer than four patients in an age band creates the risk that their identities and the procedures they have undergone will be identifiable.

We have considered whether the public interest in releasing this information outweighs the need for individual privacy and have concluded that it does not. The general expectation that medical records will be kept confidential means that the patients concerned are entitled to rely on the DHB not to create the risk that they will be identified.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to seek a review is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ethnicity and age band information is provided in the following tables:

**Table 1: Number of bariatric surgeries and ethnicity of patients from 2015 - 2020**

Bariatric surgeries	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
European	44	70	66	84	110	78
Pacific Peoples	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	11	13
Maori	16	23	20	16	20	19
Other Ethnicity	s 9(2)(a)	6	s 9(2)(a)	14	8	s 9(2)(a)

**Table 2: Number of bariatric surgeries and ages of patients from 2015 - 2020**

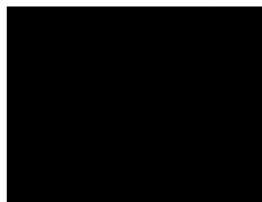
Bariatric surgeries						
Age	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
19-22	s 9(2)(a)	5	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)
23-26	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	6	s 9(2)(a)
27-30	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	5	11	6
31-34	s 9(2)(a)	7	7	12	13	s 9(2)(a)
35-38	7	5	10	13	12	18
39-42	13	18	10	8	14	15
43-46	14	25	20	14	19	17
47-50	9	16	19	29	23	17
51-54	6	10	12	15	23	10
55-58	5	5	5	9	15	8
59-62	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	s 9(2)(a)	8	9	9
63-74	s 9(2)(a)					

I trust that the information we have been able to provide is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community 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 consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



Executive Director Hospital Services  
Waitematā District Health Board