



Waitematā

District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

Hospital Services

North Shore Hospital Campus
Shakespeare Road, Takapuna
Private Bag 93-503, Takapuna
Auckland 0740
Telephone: 09 489 0527

7 July 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Paediatric presentations

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 15 June seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about paediatric presentations at Waitakere Hospital and North Shore Hospital for trauma/injury.

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 health districts 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 more than 8,900 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.

You initially requested:

I am seeking information under the Official Information Act 1982, as to the following:

How many paediatric patients presenting to A&E at Waitakere Hospital and North Shore Hospital are assessed for a history of trauma/injury (as being reflected in paperwork/discharge notes)?

What is the ethnic breakdown of those assessed?

And subsequently clarified as follows:

Can I please have information for May 2019 - May 2022? Per-year is fine. However, if monthly or quarterly data is available and easier to provide, then that's sufficient. If as far back as 2019 is not available, then can I please have information for the last 12 months, broken down by month.

E.g.:

xx paediatric presentations to ED (emergency department)

xx assessed for history of trauma/injury;

of those assessed xx% were [ethnicity 1], xx% were [ethnicity 2] etc.

To provide this information would require a review of the discharge summaries of all paediatric patients assessed at both North Shore and Waitakere hospitals' emergency departments over 12 months to determine whether or not patients were assessed for a history of trauma / injury as part of their initial assessment.

We do not routinely ask this of all patients but it is asked as part of a clinical assessment if it is felt to be relevant or applicable to the presenting complaint or the symptoms the child is exhibiting. It may then be written in to the patient's clinical files at the time of the new assessment. However, it would not be noted in the discharge summary, as there is no International Classification of Diseases (ICD) coding that captures previous history and, therefore, only the presenting symptoms would be captured. To collate the information requested, we would need to review the individual clinical files of paediatric patients over a 12-month period.

Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review the individual clinical files and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

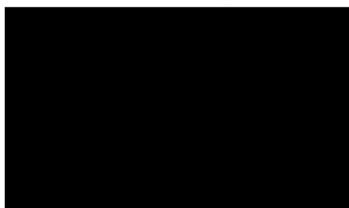
We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

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**