

6 April 2020

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Via Email: [REDACTED]

### Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 5 February 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, followed by the necessary extension of time 5 March 2020 and notice of decision 2 April 2020, where you seek the following information:

- 1. How many people were referred to the DHB for gender reassignment hormone therapy in each calendar year in 2018 and 2019?**

We are unable to electronically identify if a referral was made specifically for “Gender Reassignment Hormone Therapy” as this information is not held in a central data system and it would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually go through individual patient files. As such, NMH declines to respond under section 18(f) as *‘the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research’*.

Table 1 below shows the number of people referred to NMH for “Transgender”, Gender Dysphoria”, “Gender Transitioning” etc based on word searching in a free text ‘Referral reason’ field in the Patient Management System.

**TABLE 1**

	2018	2019
Total referrals for “Transgender”, “Gender Dysphoria”, Gender Transitioning”	21	27

- 2. What was the breakdown of ages in each of those years (youngest / oldest / median age)?**

**TABLE 2**

	2018	2019
Minimum age	≤16	≤16
Median age	26	25
Maximum age	≥50	≥50

Due to a risk of individual identifiability; the exact minimum and maximum ages are withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons, and as such NMH declines to release the information under Section 9(2)(a) *‘to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons’*. In the circumstances, the withholding of that information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

<sup>1</sup> Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

**3. How many were treated within the DHB and how many were referred to another DHB? If so, where?**

Not all people referred for gender reassignment hormone therapy progress with hormone treatment, although future treatment options may be discussed with the patient.

We are unable to electronically identify the number of patients treated or referred to another DHB as this information is not held in a central data system and it would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually go through individual patient files. As such, NMH declines to respond under section 18(f) as *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*.

**4. How many were transitioning male to female and how many female to male in each of those years?**

Not all people referred for gender reassignment progress with gender transitioning.

We are unable to electronically identify the transitioning direction as this information is not held in a central data system and it would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually go through individual patient files. As such, NMH declines to respond under section 18(f) as *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*.

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](http://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](mailto: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**

cc: Ministry of Health via email: [SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz](mailto:SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz)