

28 January 2021

[REDACTED]

**Response to a request for official information**

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 8 January 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, followed by clarification 19 January 2021 that you seek information for “the number of patients prescribed methadone”.

**1. Methadone dispensings by calendar year, for the years of 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016;**

NMH response: DHB methadone dispensing data is available on the Ministry of Health website at this link <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/pharmaceutical-data-web-tool> As such, NMH declines to respond under section 18(d) of the Act in that ‘the information requested is publicly available’.

**2. The longest consecutive period of time a person has been dispensed methadone through the DHB (if known by patient NHI) as of 2020**

NMH response: The DHB does not collect this information.

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**

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