

28 September 2021



Response to a request for official information



Thank you for your request for official information received 7 September 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH), where you seek the following information:

- 1. How many surgeries, planned procedures, including MRI and CT scans, and appointments were postponed at level 4 and 3?**

Response: Table One outlines volumes for Level 4 and 3 Lockdown dates from 18 August 2021 to 6 September 2021.

TABLE ONE

Volumes as per Ministry of Health (MOH) COVID-19 Postponement Tracker	Number
Planned Care Interventions Inpatient postponements*	129
Planned Care Interventions Outpatient postponements*	679
Diagnostic radiology scan postponements – MRI and CT	214

*Number of patients

- 2. How many colonoscopies were delayed at level 4 and 3?**

Response: 43 (as per MOH COVID-19 Postponement Tracker).

- 3. How many mental health outpatient appointments were delayed under level 4 and 3?**

Response: It would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually review and extract accurate information from individual patient files and, as such, NMH refuses this aspect of your request under section 18(f) as *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*.

- 4. At the time of the announcement of a second nationwide level 4 lockdown on August 17, was your DHB still dealing with a backlog of planned care due to the first level 4 lockdown which began in March 2020?**

Response: Yes.

5. How long do you expect it will take to clear these backlogs (assuming we have no more lockdowns)?

Response: We are still operating in a pandemic under restricted conditions, therefore do not know how long it will take to reduce any impact of the lockdown on Planned Care overall. We continue to schedule as many surgeries and clinic appointments as possible to reduce backlogs.

6. How will you prioritise those people who had their appointments postponed at level 3 and 4?

Response: Patients are prioritised and booking according to clinical need.

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