

14 February 2022

**Response to a request for official information**

Thank you for your request for official information as transferred from the Ministry of Health and received 2 December 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, followed by timeline clarification received 3 December 2021 and necessary extension of time 19 January 2022, where you seek the following information:

- 1. The percentage of patients that have been declined referrals from multiple internal and external requests for gastro-intestinal department***
  - Multiple being more than 3 separate GP/Doctor referrals*
  - Timeline is from January 2010 through November 2021.*

**NMH response:**

The percentage of patients declined more than three times from 1 January 2010 to 21 November 2021, across Gastroenterology, Paediatric Gastroenterology, and Surgical Gastroenterology specialties, was 0.06%.

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 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**

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