



14 April 2022



**Response to a request for official information**



Thank you for your request for official information as received 25 January 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, followed by the necessary extension of time 16 February 2022 and notice of decision 23 March 2022, where you seek information regarding referrals for Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC), Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) and Melanoma.

Please note, all skin lesion referrals are triaged by Nelson Bays Primary Health (for Nelson/Tasman) and Marlborough Primary Health (for Marlborough).

We refer you to the Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) for skin lesions removed in primary care by General Practitioners, or General Practitioners with Special Interest.

Our response below is for skin lesion referrals from primary care to secondary health care.

*I am covering the issue of skin cancer care in New Zealand for TVNZ and would like to know the current size of the waiting list for all skin cancer referrals to your DHB as follows:*

**1. Initial consultation appointment for suspected or confirmed BCC, SCC and melanoma**

NMH response: 39 (Non-Admitting – New cases) as at 17 March 2022

**2. Surgical appointment for melanoma excision**

NMH response: 9 (Admitting Wait-List cases) as at 17 March 2022

**3. Surgical appointment for BCC or SCC excision**

NMH response: 34 (Admitting Wait-List cases) as at 17 March 2022

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

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

Hilary Exton  
**Acting Chief Executive**