

30 June 2022

Via Email: [REDACTED]

### Response to a request for official information

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 25 May 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, where you seek the following information.

#### **Caveats:**

##### **\*Timeframe**

Data is supplied by Financial Year (1 July – 30 June) 2018/2019 to 2021/2022ytd

Following information system changes in May 2018, data processes between the old and new systems are not easily comparable.

##### **\*Methodology**

Wait times are calculated from the date of the General Practice (GP) Referral to the date the patient is actually seen at the First Specialist Appointment (FSA).

The FSA may not be the first contact a patient has after a referral. Before a patient receives a FSA, services may instigate diagnostics/investigations and surveillance, and in some cases this can be over long periods of time, therefore days waiting may appear to be high for some services.

##### **\*Wait times**

Wait times do not take into account the different Prioritisation categories placed against a Referral when wait listing a patient for Surgery.

Wait times in the Emergency Department (ED) do not take into account the different Triage categories.

#### Oncology

1. *"The average wait time to see an oncologist after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."*

NMH response:

**TABLE 1**

Average Days Between GP Referral To FSA			
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd
27.6	31.5	34.2	21.2

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

2. *“The longest and shortest wait time to see an oncologist after a referral has been sent from the patient’s GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”*

NMH response:

**TABLE 2**

Longest & Shortest Days Between GP Referral To FSA				
Days	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	136	560	1059	183
<b>Shortest Time</b>	1	1	2	2

3. *“The average wait time for cancer surgery after a patient’s First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”*

NMH response:

**TABLE 3**

Average Days for Cancer surgery after FSA			
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd
24	23	29	30

4. *“The longest and shortest wait time for cancer surgery after a patient’s First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”*

NMH response:

**TABLE 4**

Longest & Shortest Days between Cancer FSA and surgery				
Days	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	120	106	229	248
<b>Shortest Time</b>	0	0	0	0

Cardiology

5. *“The average wait time to see a cardiologist after a referral has been sent from the patient’s GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”*

NMH response:

**TABLE 5**

Average Days Between GP Referral To FSA			
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd
87.0	68.4	77.5	78.2

6. *“The longest and shortest wait time to see a cardiologist after a referral has been sent from the patient’s GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”*

NMH response:

**TABLE 6**

Longest & Shortest Days Between GP Referral To FSA				
Days	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	1249	751	907	872
<b>Shortest Time</b>	3	7	0	0

7. *“The average wait time for heart surgery after a patient’s First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”*

NMH response:

NMH does not offer this service and it is provided at a tertiary level hospital.

8. *“The longest and shortest wait time for heart surgery after a patient’s First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”*

NMH response:

NMH does not offer this service and it is provided at a tertiary level hospital.

Orthopaedics

9. *“The average wait time to see an orthop[a]edic surgeon after a referral has been sent from the patient’s GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”*

NMH response:

**TABLE 7**

Average Days Between GP Referral To FSA			
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd
96	128	136	155

10. *“The longest and shortest wait time to see an orthop[a]edic surgeon after a referral has been sent from the patient’s GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”*

NMH response:

Please see Table 8, noting the wait time in 2020/21 is particularly high due to orthopaedic patients not seen during this COVID-19 period as the majority of these patients are not cancer patients.

**TABLE 8**

Longest & Shortest Days Between GP Referral To FSA				
Days	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	1072	1110	1499	566
<b>Shortest Time</b>	0	0	1	0

**11. "The average wait time for orthop[a]edic surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 9**

Average Days for Orthopaedic surgery after FSA				
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd	
135.4	159.2	175.2	118.3	

**12. "The longest and shortest wait time for orthop[a]edic surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 10**

Longest & Shortest Days Between Orthopaedic FSA and surgery				
Days	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	1414	840	623	327
<b>Shortest Time</b>	1	4	7	2

Gynaecology

**13. "The average wait time for a gyn[a]ecologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 11**

Average Days Between GP Referral To FSA				
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd	
68	73	61	81	

**14. "The longest and shortest wait time for a gyn[a]ecologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 12**

Longest & Shortest Days Between GP Referral To FSA				
Days	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	523	1209	1285	755
<b>Shortest Time</b>	0	0	0	0

**15. "The average wait time for gyn[ae]cological surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 13**

Average Days for Gynaecological surgery after FSA			
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd
87.0	101.4	85.0	70.8

**16. "The longest and shortest wait time for gyn[ae]cological surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 14**

Longest & Shortest Days Between Gynaecological FSA and surgery				
Days	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	979	994	629	317
<b>Shortest Time</b>	1	2	5	6

Urology

**17. "The average wait time for a urologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 15**

Average Days Between GP Referral To FSA			
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd
96	112	121	153

**18. "The longest and shortest wait time for a urologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 16**

Longest & Shortest Days Between GP Referral To FSA				
Days	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	1294	1969	1865	2213
<b>Shortest Time</b>	1	2	0	4

**19. "The average wait time for urology surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 17**

Average Days for Urology surgery after FSA			
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd
206.6	148.6	152.6	84.2

**20. "The longest and shortest wait time for urology surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 18**

Longest & Shortest Days Between Urology FSA and surgery				
Days	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	1397	949	692	296
<b>Shortest Time</b>	1	6	7	5

Respiratory Medicine

**21. "The average wait time for a respir[a]tory specialist appointment/ or general med[i]cine specialist for respir[a]tory problems after a referral from a GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 19**

Average Days Between GP Referral To FSA			
2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22ytd
87	67	59	70

**22. "The longest and shortest wait time for a respir[a]tory specialist appointment/ or general med[i]cine specialist for respir[a]tory problems after a referral from a GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date."**

NMH response:

**TABLE 20**

Longest & Shortest Days Between GP Referral To FSA				
Days	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/22ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	285	367	253	180
<b>Shortest Time</b>	5	0	2	4

**23. “The average wait time for respir[at]tory surgery after a First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”**

NMH response:

NMH does not offer this service and it is provided at a tertiary level hospital.

**24. “The longest and shortest wait time for a respiratory surgery after a First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.”**

NMH response:

NMH does not offer this service and it is provided at a tertiary level hospital.

Emergency Department presentations

**25. “The average wait time for a patient visiting the emergency department, for the last five years from 2018 to this year to date.”**

NMH response:

**TABLE 21**

Average Length Of Stay (Minutes) In ED By Calendar Year - ED Presentation Time to ED Discharge time				
2018	2019	2020	2021	2022ytd
170	182	190	197	207

**26. “The longest and shortest wait time for a patient visiting the emergency department for the last five years from 2018 to this year to date.”**

NMH response:

**TABLE 22**

Longest & Shortest Length Of Stays (Minutes) In ED By Calendar Year – ED Presentation Time to ED Discharge time					
Minutes	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022ytd
<b>Longest Time</b>	3635	1303	3031	4703	1898
<b>Shortest Time</b>	1	1	1	1	1

**27. “All reports discussing hospital wait times and emergency department delays, dated between Jan 2021 to date, held by the DHB.”**

NMH response:

This information is not held in a form that is readily retrievable from our patient management systems, and it would take a significant amount of time and resources to extract and manually review numerous reports to collate this information. As such, NMH declines to respond to this aspect of your request under section 18(f) as ‘the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research’.

**28. "All reports discussing increasing patient transfers between hospitals under the new Health New Zealand model, between Jan 2021 to date, held by the DHB."**

**NMH response:**

This information is not held in a form that is readily retrievable from our patient management systems, and it would take a significant amount of time and resources to extract and manually review numerous reports to collate this information. As such, NMH declines to respond to this aspect of your request 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



Lexie O'Shea  
**Chief Executive**