

2 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021167**

I refer to your Official Information Act request partially transferred to district health boards by the Ministry of Health on 8 December 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- 1. How many surgeries /procedures/assessments have been cancelled across the country in the past year.***
- 2. Is it possible to break that number down by month.***
- 3. How many surgeries/procedures/assessments were cancelled in 2019 and in 2017***

In answering the above questions we are providing information that relates to Hawke's Bay DHB (we are not in a position to provide information for New Zealand).

In answering your questions, we have interpreted the use of the word 'cancelled' to mean 'postponed'. The DHB does not cancel patients who require a surgery/procedure/assessment once they have been accepted onto a waiting list.

From time to time, however, they may need to be postponed; this may be for a number of reasons, including patient sickness, the competing demand of 'acute' patients needing life saving surgery or beds, service disruption such as industrial action and, more recently, service disruption associated with COVID-19.

Please find below two sets of data. The first (Table 1) relates to cancellations of theatre or hospital procedures (ie radiology) for the 2017, 2019 and 2021 calendar years. This table does not include cancellations in the clinic or outpatient setting – these are shown, for the same time period, in Table 2.

As you can see from the data there has been a significant increase in postponements in 2021 (a trend also true of 2020), and this is primarily related to the service disruption associated with COVID-19. It is important to note that, over this period, Hawke's Bay DHB has undertaken more operations through its theatres than occurred in any of the preceding three years. In 2020/21 the DHB achieved over 99% of its Ministry of Health elective discharges target.

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Ash', written in a cursive style.

Chris Ash  
Chief Operating Officer

cc: *Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIAs@moh.govt.nz  
oia@hbdhb.govt.nz*

Table 1			Table 2		
Calendar Year	Month	TOTAL	Calendar Year	Month	TOTAL
2017	Jan 2017	98	2017	Jan 2017	83
	Feb 2017	55		Feb 2017	103
	Mar 2017	71		Mar 2017	121
	Apr 2017	36		Apr 2017	84
	May 2017	77		May 2017	109
	Jun 2017	79		Jun 2017	86
	Jul 2017	76		Jul 2017	58
	Aug 2017	118		Aug 2017	103
	Sep 2017	78		Sep 2017	113
	Oct 2017	55		Oct 2017	103
	Nov 2017	71		Nov 2017	103
	Dec 2017	66		Dec 2017	80
2017		880	2017		1146
2019	Jan 2019	102	2019	Jan 2019	143
	Feb 2019	106		Feb 2019	130
	Mar 2019	114		Mar 2019	97
	Apr 2019	95		Apr 2019	107
	May 2019	81		May 2019	104
	Jun 2019	57		Jun 2019	122
	Jul 2019	64		Jul 2019	84
	Aug 2019	64		Aug 2019	110
	Sep 2019	102		Sep 2019	130
	Oct 2019	54		Oct 2019	128
	Nov 2019	55		Nov 2019	106
	Dec 2019	39		Dec 2019	112
2019		933	2019		1373
2021	Jan 2021	86	2021	Jan 2021	125
	Feb 2021	78		Feb 2021	141
	Mar 2021	97		Mar 2021	156
	Apr 2021	68		Apr 2021	152
	May 2021	98		May 2021	167
	Jun 2021	85		Jun 2021	252
	Jul 2021	78		Jul 2021	218
	Aug 2021	373		Aug 2021	1664
	Sep 2021	39		Sep 2021	739
	Oct 2021	72		Oct 2021	240
	Nov 2021	71		Nov 2021	253
	Dec 2021	101		Dec 2021	239
2021		1246	2021		4346