



28 September 2020

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act Request**

The Ministry of health transferred your Official Information Act request regarding endoscopy procedures to district health boards on 15 September 2020.

- 1. In the last five years how many endoscopy consents were undertaken by nurses and could I please get a breakdown of the procedures these consents related to (e.g, gastroscopy, colonoscopy, ERCP, etc)? I also want to know who conducted the procedure.*

Zero. As noted below the procedures were conducted by doctors.

- 2. In the last five years how many endoscopy consents were done by doctors and could I please get a breakdown of the procedures these consents related to? I also want to know who conducted the procedure.*

At Northland DHB all endoscopy consents are completed by doctors. The procedures were conducted by doctors. A summary of the number of procedures completed is set out below.

<b>Procedure</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Bronchoscopy	73	71	59	76	58
Colonoscopy	1348	1091	1454	1713	1635
Combined Colonoscopy+Gastroscopy	168	138	191	206	216
Flexible Sigmoidoscopy	125	95	195	185	218
Combined Flexible Sigmoidoscopy+Gastroscopy	7	4	6	7	6
Gastroscopy	971	950	1003	1200	1320
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2692</b>	<b>2349</b>	<b>2908</b>	<b>3387</b>	<b>3453</b>

- 3. For the last five years, can you please state how many high-risk endoscopy procedures (based on what you classify as high-risk procedures) nurses consented patients to?*

Please see our response above.

*4. In the last five years, how many deaths have been attributed to endoscopy procedures?*

This information cannot be provided without extensive audit of individual patient files. In view of the substantial research and collation required to extract the information requested I have decided to refuse this part of your request in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. You have a right to complain to the Ombudsman about my decision.

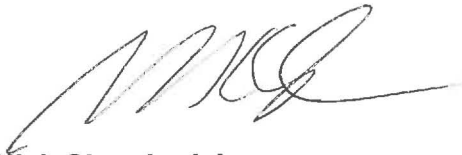
*5. What is best practice in terms of who (i.e. doctors or nurses) should be consenting patients to endoscopy procedures? Should consent be obtained by the clinician conducting the procedure?*

As noted above at Northland DHB the endoscopist obtains consent.

Northland DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist public understanding of how we deliver our services. This includes proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been provided to you. Personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be publicly available we will consider your views.

If you have any questions regarding Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Chamberlain', written in a cursive style.

**Dr Nick Chamberlain**  
**Chief Executive**