



1 November 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

### Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about orthognathic surgery.

*I am writing to request a report on how many patients have been provided with publicly funded orthognathic surgery each year, over the past 5 years from Northland DBH as a total number. I would like this number to then be categorised into how many patients received orthognathic surgery for a Class III Malocclusion (Child and adult categorised).*

*Additionally, I would like to be provided with a list of the Cephalometric and OPG- X Ray measurement criteria that would qualify an adult patient with a Class III Malocclusion to receive publicly funded Orthognathic surgery (+/- Community Services Card).*

*Lastly, I would like to be provided with a list of criteria that establishes the waiting times for an adult requiring orthognathic surgery.*

Between 2017 and 2021 a total of 5 Orthognathic surgery cases were undertaken. Three of the 5 cases were Class III malocclusion. The procedure was performed on 4 children (under 18yrs) and 1 adult for sleep apnoea (not class III).

The criteria used to determine to access to surgery - IOTN (Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need) – requires a score of 4 or 5. It is not based upon cephalometric or OPG measures.

Adults would only be considered for Orthognathic surgery if the malocclusion is associated with a severe functional issue such as sleep apnoea, or they have a congenital condition, such as cleft lip cleft palate.

Northland DHB has only had a visiting maxillofacial consultant over the past 5 years. Unfortunately his capacity dropped from fortnightly to one day per month. We now have a full time maxillofacial consultant and as a consequence our capacity to treat these patients will increase. This is demonstrated by 3 recent Class III malocclusion consults being worked up. We expect that these patients should be ready for surgery within the next 6 – 12 months ( the patients are not currently on the waiting list).

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 queries relating to Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Chamberlain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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