



16 February 2021



Dear [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act Request**

You have asked for information about diabetic eye screening.

- *For 2020, the number of screens for diabetic retinopathy purchased, the number of screens delivered, and the DNA rate.*

The number of patient screens delivered in 2020 was 3,630 and the average DNA rate was 19%.

- *The estimated number of people living with diabetes within the DHB.*

The estimated eligible population in Northland is 9,707

- *How many diabetic retinopathy screening episodes were delivered during lockdown, and how long any disruption lasted (i.e when did screening return to 'normal').*

The screening service was closed on 20 March 2020 and reopened on 13 May 2020. All patients that had appointments already booked during that time were telephoned to check their condition and were contacted again when the service reopened to book new appointments.

- *On January 1 2021, how many new referrals were on the wait list for their first screening visit, the average time spent on this wait list, and the longest individual time spent waiting.*

There were a total of 41 new referrals on the wait list. The average time waiting is 33 days. The longest time spent waiting is 287 days. Please note that waiting times may be influenced by matters outside the control of Northland DHB; for example an appointment date offered to a patient may not be convenient for them due to their personal commitments or circumstances.

- *On January 1 2021, how many existing patients were overdue for their follow up screening appointment, the average overdue time, and the longest individual time overdue*

Three patients overdue for their screening appointment have not been offered an appointment. There are 798 patients overdue for their screening appointment who have been offered an appointment. This list is actively followed up.

The longest time spent waiting is 1645 days. The individual's personal circumstances have prevented them from undergoing screening. Please note that waiting times may be influenced by matters outside the control of Northland DHB; for example an appointment date offered to a patient may not be convenient for them due to their personal commitments or circumstances.

*Additional Information*

On 10 February 2021 you requested additional information relating to coverage for diabetic retinal screening. This additional request will be treated as a separate Official Information Act request and we will respond in due course.

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 Northland DHB's Communications Manager, in the first instance at [communications@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:communications@northlanddhb.org.nz).

Yours sincerely

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

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