



10 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

### Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about joint replacement surgery.

*In the past 12 months, what proportion of your DHB patients that were referred to a waiting list by a surgeon, for a joint replacement, were accepted onto the list and got surgery?*

All patients referred by an Orthopaedic Surgeon for surgery and who score at or above our treatment threshold are immediately added to the Surgical Waiting List. Once on the list the patient pathway anaesthetic pre-assessment is completed as well as any other additional work up or optimisation. A number of patients are removed from the Surgical Waiting List at this juncture.

Between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, 533 patients were removed from our Surgical Waiting List, with 458 patients having received surgery (for a primary hip or knee or bilateral replacement procedure) and a further 75 patients were removed from the waiting list during this time period without surgery for patient choice or clinical reasons. Reasons for removal include the patient no longer wishes to undergo surgery, exacerbation of co-morbidities, development of other illnesses or shifting to another area outside Northland. The proportion of patients that received surgery during this period was 86%. Activity levels during 2020 were materially impacted due to the COVID-19 lockdown and preparations made during that period.

*In 2017 what proportion of your DHB patients that were referred to a waiting list by a surgeon, for a joint replacement, were accepted onto the list and got surgery?*

All patients referred by an Orthopaedic Surgeon for surgery and who score at or above our treatment threshold are immediately added to the Surgical Waiting List. Once on the list the patient pathway anaesthetic pre-assessment is completed as well as any other additional work up or optimisation. A number of patients are removed from the Surgical Waiting List at this juncture. A number of patients are removed from the Surgical Waiting List at this juncture.

Between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017, 602 patients were removed from our Surgical Waiting List, with 491 patients having received surgery (for a primary hip or knee or bilateral replacement procedure) and a further 111 patients were removed from the waiting list during this time period without surgery for patient choice or clinical reasons. Reasons for removal include the patient no longer wishes to undergo surgery, exacerbation of co-morbidities, development of other illnesses or shifting to another area outside Northland. The proportion of patients that received surgery during this period was 82%.

*Is the DHB able to comment on whether there are enough GPs in the region?*

As you may know primary care is funded through Primary Health Organisations. I suggest you contact Northland's Primary Health Entity/Primary Health Organisation Mahitahi Hauora to discuss whether there are enough GPs in Northland ([info@mahitahihauora.co.nz](mailto:info@mahitahihauora.co.nz)).

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 be 'Nick Chamberlain', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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