



11 February 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

### Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about methadone dispensing.

- *Methadone dispensings by calendar year, for the years of 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016;*

This information is publicly available on the following link.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/pharmaceutical-data-web-tool>

We understand that data for 2020 is not yet available as there is usually a three month lag time for the Ministry of Health to have this data finalised. This is mainly due to the time it takes for pharmacies to submit their prescription claims.

- *The longest consecutive period of time a person has been dispensed methadone through the DHB (if known by patient NHI) as of 2020*

The longest consecutive period as of 2020 that a person has been dispensed methadone through Northland DHB is 12.9 years.

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 'N Chamberlain', written over a horizontal line.

**Dr Nick Chamberlain**  
Chief Executive