

15 September 2022



Tēnā koe [redacted]

Official Information Act Request – REF HNZ00003230

Thank you for your email of 23 August 2022, asking for information about surgery wait lists which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

To actively tackle the surgery backlog, Te Whatu Ora Te Tai Tokerau have been ordered to book appointments by the end of September with patients who have been on the surgical wait list for some time. How many patients does this affect?

At the end of July 2022 there were 731 patients on the Surgical Waiting List who were waiting more than 12 months.

-What kind of surgeries and/or medical procedures does that include?

A mixed range of procedures is included from the following specialties: Dental, Ear Nose and Throat, General Surgery, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Plastic Surgery and Urology.

-Given the demand for high-priority procedures, how does Te Whatu Ora Te Tai Tokerau aspire to achieve this directive?

We are working hard to achieve the directive that has been issued. However, given the volume of patients affected the recovery will take an extended period.

-What is currently the longest time a patient had to wait for their procedure?

Long waiting times for treatment may be due to patient reasons such as sickness (eg exacerbation of an existing unrelated health condition or emergence of a new unrelated health condition), transport issues or the patient is not able to attend their scheduled operation date. The longest individual waiting time is 18 months.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

If you have any questions regarding our response to your information request please contact our Communications Manager, in the first instance at communications@northlanddhb.org.nz .

Ngā mihi



Tracey Schiebli

Interim District Director

Te Tai Tokerau / Northern Region