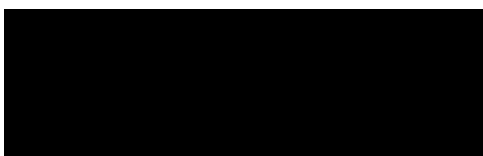


4 October 2021



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 7 September 2021. You have requested the following information:

This is an OIA request regarding elective procedures, imaging (MRI, CT scans) and mental health appointments delayed under lockdown levels 3 and 4.

- *How many surgeries, planned procedures, including MRI and CT scans, and appointments were postponed at level 4 and 3?*

Please see the table under the *Appendix* regarding surgeries, planned care and appointments information.

Radiology:

- 95 CTs and MRI were rescheduled under level 4.
- Taranaki DHB cannot supply the numbers for level 3, as we are still awaiting the vendor to supply this information.

- *How many colonoscopies were delayed at level 4 and 3?*

96 colonoscopies (including flexi sigmoidoscopies, gastroscopy/colonoscopy/flexi sigmoidoscopy combinations) were delayed in level 4 and 26 in level 3.

- *How many mental health outpatient appointments were delayed under level 4 and 3?*
 - Seven referral assessments were cancelled – following screening and triaging and now been rebooked.
 - Seven people were triaged as urgent and seen, of these seven four went on to be seen by the Assessment and Brief Care Service. The others were followed up by phone (their choice) and then given appointments once we got to level 2.
 - 12 Community Mental Health Psychiatry appointments were cancelled however these have all been rebooked. All other community clinician contacts continued via phone or digital means.

Continued...

- *At the time of the announcement of a second nationwide level 4 lockdown on August 17, was your DHB still dealing with a backlog of planned care due to the first level 4 lockdown which began in March 2020?*

Most services have ongoing wait lists which have been impacted by the COVID lockdown.

- *How long do you expect it will take to clear these backlogs (assuming we have no more lockdowns)*

Taranaki DHB has been undertaking a rolling review of all referrals throughout lockdown to ensure that any cases postponed or waiting are frequently reviewed and re-prioritised in order to prevent adverse outcomes.

- *How will you prioritise those people who had their appointments postponed at level 3 and 4?*

Patients will be rebooked in the next clinic or on the next appropriate theatre list.

I trust the above information answers your OIA request.

Kind regards



Gillian Campbell
Chief Operating Officer

Enc.

Appendix

<i>Cancellations - Surgeries/Planned Procedures</i>	level 4	Level 3	Total Cancellation in Lockdown
Planned Care Interventions Inpatient cancellations (Elective surgery)	110	75	185
Planned Care Interventions Outpatient cancellations (Elective Minor Procedures)	18	14	32
Day ward procedures	22	5	27
Cardiology Angiography	6	6	12
Outpatient First Specialist Assessments & Follow Up cancellations (number of patients impacted)	55	68	123