



21 August 2019

Mr Brodie Fraser

Email: [fyi-request-10544-5099d6b4@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10544-5099d6b4@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Fraser

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST – GENDER REASSIGNMENT SURGERY – OIA TRANSFER REF H201904459**

Thank you for your OIA request partially transferred to the Waikato DHB from the Ministry of Health NZ on 20 June 2019 regarding gender reassignment surgery.

The Ministry of Health partially transferred parts four and five of your OIA request outlined below for the Waikato DHB to provide answers.

1. *How many, if any, surgeons in New Zealand perform sex reassignment surgery?*
  2. *What, if any, types of sex reassignment surgery are performed in New Zealand, and what, if any, types are only performed overseas?*
  3. *If there are any sex reassignment surgeries performed overseas, does the ministry intend to bring these services to New Zealand?*
  4. *How many, if any, transgender individuals have been referred to endocrine services in New Zealand in the past five years, broken down by year?*
  5. *How many, if any, transgender individuals have been referred to endocrine services in New Zealand in the past five years, broken down by DHB?*
  6. *What, if any, is the size of the current waiting list for Male to Female surgeries?*
  7. *What, if any, is the size of the current waiting list for Female to Male surgeries?*
  8. *How long does the ministry anticipate it would take for everyone currently on the Male to Female waiting list to be seen?*
  9. *How long does the ministry anticipate it would take for everyone currently on the Female to Male waiting list to be seen?*
- 4. *How many, if any, transgender individuals have been referred to endocrine services in New Zealand in the past five years, broken down by year?***

Our referral system does not easily identify patients who are transgender.

However, we have been able to identify nine patients who were referred to endocrinology services with gender reassignment related issues over the past five years from 2015 – 2019, with no referrals reported in 2017.



The numbers broken down by years are small (that is <5); we have therefore withheld this information under Sections 18(a) and 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, and we do not consider that the public interest in the release of the information outweighs the need to withhold it.

**5. *How many, if any, transgender individuals have been referred to endocrine services in New Zealand in the past five years, broken down by DHB?***

Further to our answer provided to part four of your request, numbers broken down by DHB as requested are small (that is <5); we have therefore withheld this information under Sections 18(a) and 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, and we do not consider that the public interest in the release of the information outweighs the need to withhold it.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review the decision to withhold information. The Ombudsman's postal address is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsmen  
P O Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON

Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

Yours sincerely



**Ron Dunham**  
Interim Chief Operating Officer  
Waikato District Health Board