



*Planning and Funding*  
P O Box 1600,  
**CHRISTCHURCH**

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4193  
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165  
[Ralph.Lasalle@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Ralph.Lasalle@cdhb.health.nz)

31 August 2020

Renoh Chalakkal

Email: [fyi-request-13621-6cb4c13c@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13621-6cb4c13c@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Renoh

**RE Official information request CDHB 10403**

We are writing to acknowledge your email dated 31 August 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- 1. How are the ophthalmology referrals prioritized?**
- 2. Is there any automatic referral system in place?**
- 3. Are there any standards or operating procedures that are followed while placing referrals from GPs/primary care providers?**
- 4. Can private eye care providers (Specsavers/OPSM etc.) refer a patient to specialist ophthalmologists in CDHB?**
- 5. Can a patient consult with a specialist ophthalmologist at the ED directly without an appointment? If not can a GP immediately refer a patient to a specialist ophthalmologist at the hospital? Are there any specialist ophthalmologists available at ED 24\*7 ?**
- 6. What criteria are followed in prioritizing the ophthalmology referrals?**
- 7. In 2019-2020, what is the average time taken for a GP referral for different types (serious, moderately serious, and not serious, etc.) priorities to get an appointment with a specialist ophthalmologist/optometrist?**
- 8. How many specialist ophthalmologists and optometrists are practicing in CDHB separately?**
- 9. How many registered ophthalmologists/optometrists are there in whole New Zealand?**
- 10. Were there any steps taken by DHBs across New Zealand (or at least by Auckland DHB) to conduct the ophthalmology clinics remotely over tele platforms so that patients get necessary eye care during the different stages of lockdown in New Zealand?**

We will consider your request against the provisions of the Official Information Act (see below) and advise you of our decision regarding the release of information within 20 working days (being the statutory timeframe provided within the Act.) Accordingly, we will notify you, no later than 29 September 2020, of our decision.

Your request is being handled by Kathleen Smitheram. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact either myself (details above) or Kathleen. ([Kathleen.smitheram@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Kathleen.smitheram@cdhb.health.nz); Phone (03) 364-4134). Please refer to the OIA number above when phoning or emailing.

**15 Decisions on requests**

(1) Subject to this Act, the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation to whom a request is made in accordance with [section 12](#) or is transferred in accordance with [section 14](#) of this Act or [section 12](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case not later than 20 working days after the day on which the request is received by that department or Minister of the Crown or organisation,—

(1)(a) decide whether the request is to be granted and, if it is to be granted, in what manner and for what charge (if any); and

(1)(b) give or post to the person who made the request notice of the decision on the request

[If we are unable to make a decision on your request by the date noted above, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.]

If any additional factors come to light which are relevant to your request, please do not hesitate to contact us so that these can be taken into account.

Yours sincerely



Ralph La Salle  
Team Leader, Planning & Funding

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