

Wednesday 13 July, 2022

Emma Vitz
Private Individual

Email: fyi-request-19607-52a6afd1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Emma

Official Information Act Request for – Outsourced Elective Procedures

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us Wednesday 15 June, 2022, you requested the following information:

- 1. The total number of procedures outsourced by year (including the year to date) for the past five years.**
- 2. For each year, provide a breakdown of the type of procedure.**
- 3. For each year, provide the total spend on outsourced elective surgeries.**
- 4. For each year, provide the amount that these surgeries would have cost the DHBs if they had not been outsourced.**

Te Whatu Ora – Counties Manukau District Response:

For context the Counties Manukau District (Te Whatu Ora – Counties Manukau District) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, over 490,000 outpatient appointments each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide national, regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

- 1. The total number of procedures outsourced by year (including the year to date) for the past five years.**

10,538 procedures from 1 July 2017 until 31 May 2022. This count includes outsourced procedures, producers delivered under wet leasing* arrangements, and procedures performed by the Mobile Surgical Bus.

*Wet leasing is where a private provider provides the theatre, theatre staff, and ward beds/staff. Te Whatu Ora – Counties Manukau provides the surgical staff involved. Anaesthetic staff are usually provided by the private provider, but this can be variable.

- 2. For each year, provide a breakdown of the type of procedure.**

Outsourced elective surgery patient numbers						
Clinical category	Subspecialty	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 (YTD MAY)
Outsourcing	Ophthalmology	0	0	0	19	4
	Plastics	15	2	34	152	73
	General Surgery	229	268	405	313	239

	Orthopaedics	302	252	264	324	248
	ENT	177	355	307	233	75
	Urology	45	29	11	2	42
'Wet leasing	Ophthalmology	539	914	1207	1680	1221
	Plastics	0	0	0	27	8
	General Surgery	0	0	0	14	12
	Orthopaedics	0	0	0	29	20
	ENT	0	0	0	37	14
	Urology	0	0	0	101	82
Surgical bus	Ophthalmology	0	0	0	0	0
	Plastics	0	16	16	0	0
	General Surgery	0	29	25	0	0
	Orthopaedics	0	0	0	0	0
	ENT	39	22	10	0	0
	Urology	19	44	17	0	0
	TOTAL	1365	1931	2296	2912	2034

3. For each year, provide the total spend on outsourced elective surgeries.

Outsourced elective surgery spend						
Clinical category	Subspecialty	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 (YTD MAY)
		Total \$	Total \$	Total \$	Total \$	Total \$
Outsourcing	Ophthalmology	\$941,416	\$1,647,903	\$1,158,542	\$573,368	\$482,159
	Plastics	\$63,763	\$4,790	\$315,804	\$886,637	\$443,399
	General Surgery	\$962,632	\$1,080,628	\$1,829,554	\$1,505,046	\$1,136,991
	Orthopaedics	\$3,299,309	\$2,815,461	\$3,088,068	\$4,162,189	\$3,209,948
	ENT	\$476,953	\$986,894	\$979,702	\$991,294	\$319,241
	Urology	\$218,768	\$147,175	\$58,912	\$10,711	\$337,943
Wet leasing	Ophthalmology	\$0	\$0	\$944,536	\$2,503,280	\$1,553,558
	Plastics	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$86,483	\$35,433
	General Surgery	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$122,689	\$74,614
	Orthopaedics	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$194,183	\$108,046
	ENT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,248	\$33,353
	Urology	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$424,610	\$405,244
Surgical bus	Ophthalmology	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Plastics	\$0	\$40,758	\$28,133	\$0	\$0
	General Surgery	\$0	\$32,606	\$80,374	\$0	\$0
	Orthopaedics	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	ENT	\$24,876	\$36,576	\$38,805	\$0	\$0
	Urology	\$17,512	\$44,812	\$36,924	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL	\$6,005,230	\$6,837,602	\$8,559,353	\$11,560,738	\$8,139,929

4. For each year, provide the amount that these surgeries would have cost the DHBs if they had not been outsourced.

We are unable to provide data for this question as the information is not available.

I trust this information answers your request. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Te Whatu Ora – Counties Manukau District website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Peter Watson

Interim National Director - Medical

Interim District Director - Counties Manukau

Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand