

06 AUG 2018

T Monk

fyi-request-8337-a5049c32@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201805030

Dear T Monk,

Response to your request for official information

I refer to your official information request received on 13 July 2018, in which you request the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. a. *What is the incidence of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in NZ overall, versus in other countries of the world?*
1. b. *What is the incidence of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) in NZ overall, versus in other countries of the world?*
2. a. *What is the comparative incidence of MND in NZ by region?*
2. b. *What is the comparative incidence of GBS in NZ by region?*
3. a. *What is the incidence of MND on Waiheke Island?*
3. b. *What is the incidence of GBS on Waiheke Island?*
4. a. *What is the prevalence of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) in NZ overall, versus in other countries of the world?*
4. b. *What is the prevalence of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) in NZ overall, versus in other countries of the world?*
5. a. *What is the comparative prevalence of MND in NZ by region?*
5. b. *What is the comparative prevalence of GBS in NZ by region?*
6. a. *What is the prevalence of MND on Waiheke Island?*
6. b. *What is the prevalence of GBS on Waiheke Island?*
7. *What are the gross numbers and rates of reported Campylobacter infections (by site of origin) for each of the past 20 years in NZ*
8. a. *Are patients diagnosed with GBS subject to studies for viral and Campylobacter infections (and are the cohort who also ate the suspect chicken subject to these tests?*
8. b. *Are patients diagnosed with MND subject to studies for viral and Campylobacter*

infections?

9. a. Does the NZ govt do regular testing for chemicals in urban drinking water supplies? (If so, where is this done; and could you please provide results from the past 20 years or a link to results)?

9. b. Does the NZ govt do regular testing for chemicals in rural or semi-rural (such as Waiheke Island) areas where agriculture and industry may result in atmospheric contamination entering water tanks from water gathers on roofs? If so can you please provide the annual stats for the past 20 years.

8. c. Is there a lab where rural and semi-rural households can send water samples for testing?

For questions one through six, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) does not collect prevalence or incidence data. This aspect of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982.

The tables provided below contain the hospital discharge data that the Ministry holds where Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and Motor Neurone Disease (MND) have been the primary diagnosis upon discharge.

The figures provided in the below tables are a count of these hospitalisations, and are comprised of people who have been counted each time they are hospitalised.

Please note that this data may include repeat presentations by the same patients.

Number of publicly funded hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of GBS by DHB 2014/15 - 2016/17			
District Health Board (DHB) of domicile	Financial Year		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Northland	10	10	9
Waitemata	20	19	20
Auckland	4	14	19
Counties Manukau	20	24	15
Waikato	12	17	8
Lakes	2	9	4
Bay of Plenty	11	10	17
Tairāwhiti	1		3
Hawkes Bay	4	3	8
Taranaki	5	4	1
MidCentral	9	3	4

Whanganui	6	1	3
Capital and Coast	8	2	15
Hutt Valley	3	3	9
Wairarapa			2
Nelson Marlborough	6	5	1
Canterbury	11	9	16
South Canterbury	5	5	2
Southern	8	6	10
Overseas		2	4
<i>MND Motor Neurone Disease ICD-10 v8 code G122</i>			
<i>Note: This is a count of hospitalisations, people will be counted each time they are hospitalised and people with GBS not hospitalised will not be counted in this data.</i>			

Number of publicly funded hospital discharges with a primary diagnosis of MND by DHB 2014/15 - 2016/17			
District Health Board (DHB) of domicile	Financial Year		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Northland	9	9	10
Waitemata	18	47	39
Auckland	13	12	10
Counties Manukau	37	33	34
Waikato	39	14	17
Lakes	8	8	8
Bay of Plenty	9	13	5
Tairāwhiti		1	
Hawkes Bay	3	13	3
Taranaki		6	4
MidCentral	6	2	4
Whanganui	3	3	9

Capital and Coast	4	6	10
Hutt Valley	10	5	19
Wairarapa		1	2
Nelson Marlborough	24	35	17
West Coast	3	2	2
Canterbury	26	39	11
South Canterbury	10	6	2
Southern	23	21	16
Overseas		1	
<i>GBS – Guillain-Barre Syndrome ICD-10 v8 code G610</i>			
<i>Note: This is a count of hospitalisations, people will be counted each time they are hospitalised and people with MND not hospitalised will not be counted in this data.</i>			

You have also requested:

7. What are the gross numbers and rates of reported *Campylobacter* infections (by site of origin) for each of the past 20 years in NZ

This aspect of your request is refused under section 18 (d) of the Official Information Act 1982, as this information is publically available at:
https://surv.esr.cri.nz/surveillance/annual_surveillance.php - annual numbers and rates by District Health Board (DHB) are provided at the end of the annual reports.

8. a. Are patients diagnosed with GBS subject to studies for viral and *Campylobacter* infections (and are the cohort who also ate the suspect chicken subject to these tests?)
 8. b. Are patients diagnosed with MND subject to studies for viral and *Campylobacter* infections?

This aspect of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982. This is not information held by the Ministry and these questions would need to be asked of the doctors who usually care for GBS and MND patients, i.e. neurologists.

9. a. Does the NZ govt do regular testing for chemicals in urban drinking water supplies? (If so, where is this done; and could you please provide results from the past 20 years or a link to results)?
 9. b. Does the NZ govt do regular testing for chemicals in rural or semi-rural (such as Waiheke Island) areas where agriculture and industry may result in atmospheric contamination entering water tanks from water gathers on roofs? If so can you please provide the annual stats for the past 20 years.
 8. c. Is there a lab where rural and semi-rural households can send water samples for testing?"

The following link on the Ministry's website will provide you annual reports on drinking-water quality, along with the Register of Recognised Laboratories, which will be able to assist in

relation to testing water samples: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/environmental-health/drinking-water/drinking-water-resources>

This link also contains the Register of Recognised Laboratories, which will be able to assist in terms of water testing.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of these decisions.

Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone: 0800 802 602

Yours sincerely



Darren Douglass
Acting Chief Technology and Digital Services Officer
Technology and Digital Services