

21 August 2018

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Official information request W18-229**

I refer to your official information request received 31 July 2018.

#### **Request:**

Multiple Sclerosis NZ contacted you in March 2017 regarding the services experienced in your DHB by people with Multiple Sclerosis, with a particular focus on Neurology services. We are contacting you once again to understand the access to services and how this may have changed over the last 15 months. We are trying to understand the situation across the country and would be grateful if you would arrange for the following information in respect to your DHB. We are submitting three separate OIAs, with the requests focussing on Waiting Times, Appointment Numbers, and Staffing Numbers.

#### **Waiting Times**

What is the current waiting time for a/an:

1. first specialist neurology outpatients appointment
2. Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment
3. Outpatient MRI?
4. Outpatient infusion clinic appointment
5. outpatient psychology appointment
6. outpatient physiotherapy appointment
7. outpatient Occupational Therapy appointment

#### **Staffing Numbers**

1. How many Neurologists are MS specialists on staff? (numbers and FTE equivalent)
2. How many Neurologists are MS specialists on staff? (numbers and FTE equivalent)
3. How many Neurologists on your staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis?
4. How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff? (numbers and FTE equivalent)
5. How many MS Nurse Specialists are on staff? (numbers and FTE equivalent)

## Appointment Numbers

1. How many neurology appointments were completed in the past 12 months where the patient has an indication or diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis?
2. How many referrals for neurology appointments were declined in the past 12 months where the patient has an indication of diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis
3. How many people with an indication or subsequent diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis have attended a first Neurologist appointment?
4. How many people with an indication or subsequent diagnosis of have received follow up Neurologist appointments?
5. How many people with a diagnosis of MS have received a Psychotherapy appointment?
6. How many people with a diagnosis of MS have had a referral for a Psychotherapy appointment
7. How many people with a diagnosis of MS have received a Physiotherapy appointment?
8. How many people with a diagnosis of MS have had a referral for a Physiotherapy appointment
9. How many people with a diagnosis of MS have received a Occupational Therapy appointment
10. How many people with a diagnosis of MZ have had a referral for a Occupational Therapy appointment declined?

### Response:

The information you have requested is below.

Wairarapa DHB does not have a neurology service; therefore it does not employ any neurologists, neurology nurses or multiple sclerosis specialists. Patients are referred to Capital and Coast District Health Board so we don't hold any data to be able to answer these questions.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Wairarapa District Health Board website no less than one week after the response has been provided to you. Any personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. The DHB will endeavour to resolve any concerns you should raise but, subject to any legal grounds for withholding, ultimately reserves the right to publish any information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact:

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Communications Administrator

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Ph: 06 946 9800, ext 5840

Yours sincerely



Catherine Sheridan

**Acting Chief Executive**