

18 June 2021

OIA Reference: **OIA2021052001**

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Official Information Act request OIA2021052001

Thank you for your request received by Hutt Valley District Health Board on 20 May 2021 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding *HVDHB MRI Scan Wait Times*. You requested the following information for both Hutt Valley District Health Board (HVDHB) and Wairarapa District Health Board (WDHB):

- 1. What is the maximum wait time in days / weeks or months for an MRI from referral to scan in the past year?*
- 2. What is the average wait time in days / weeks or months for an MRI from referral to scan in the past year?*
- 3. Is there any information on reporting times post-scan? i.e. When a patient from Wairarapa has an MRI at HVDHB, how much time passes, on average, for the doctor who ordered the scan to receive results? Is there a maximum lag-time?*

In addition to your questions, data has been provided in line with Ministry of Health (MOH) performance targets. This is because outliers such as incomplete referrals, patient availability and priority affect DHB data on average and maximum wait times.

For example, if a patient booked in for a scan and does not attend their appointment, they remain on the waiting list and are offered several other appointments. This alters and affects the overall average and maximum wait times.

The Ministry of Health sets a target for diagnostic wait times—90% of our referrals are expected to be carried out within six weeks.

Hutt Valley DHB's current performance sees 81% of referrals scanned within 9 weeks and 81% within 10 weeks for Wairarapa District Health Board.

Our response to your questions is as follows.

Response

1. The average and maximum wait time for MRI from referral to scan in the past year and the average represented in days/weeks or months.

The maximum time that a patient is waiting for an MRI at HVDHB is 246 Days from Request to Scan. Therefore, the average time that a patient is waiting for an MRI at HVDHB is 87.1 days.

The maximum wait time that a patient is waiting for an MRI at WDHB 203 Days from Request to Scan. Therefore, the average time that a patient is waiting for an MRI at WDHB is 73.2 days.

2. Is there any information on reporting times post-scan? I.e. when a patient from Wairarapa has an MRI at HVDHB, how much time passes, on average, for the doctor who ordered the scan to receive results? Is there a maximum lag-time?

The average time to report a HVDHB MRI over the last year is 5.8 Days from Scan to Report.

The average time to report a WDHB MRI over the last year is 5.1 Days from Scan to Report.

There is no maximum lag-time. The Ministry of Health measure performance from point of referral to report date.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or you can free phone 0800 802 602.

Nāku ite noa, nā



Joy Farley
2DHB Director Provider Services

Cc Chief Executive Officer, Wairarapa District Health Board