

17 July 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Official information request W19-352

I refer to your official information request dated 18 June 2019.

Request:

I seeking the following information in relational to a story I'm working on about the demand of the National Bowel Screening Programme.

1. The number of colonoscopy referrals the DHB has declined each month for the last five years to date (May 2015 to May 2019).
2. The number of colonoscopies performed at the DHB each month for the last five years to date (May 2015 to May 2019).
3. A copy of the DHB's criteria to approve a colonoscopy referral.
4. The number of gastroenterology specialists employed by the DHB; broken down into fulltime and part-time employees.
5. The number of vacancies the DHB currently has available for gastroenterology specialists and how long each vacancy has been open for.
6. The amount each colonoscopy costs the DHB.
7. The number of colonoscopies the DHB has outsourced to the private sector each year for the last five years.
8. The amount of money the DHB has spent to outsource colonoscopies to the private sector each financial year for the last five financial years.
9. The amount of money the DHB has budgeted for colonoscopies against the amount of money spent for colposcopies (including those outsourced) for each financial year, for the last five years.

Questions two, three and six were transferred to the Ministry of Health on 1 July 2019.

Response:

The information you have requested is below.

1. We do not decline referrals - they either go to direct referral, CTC (CT Colonography) or are seen in a surgical outpatient clinic.
4. We currently have no gastroenterologist employed by Wairarapa DHB.
5. None.
7. None.
8. None.

9. The DHB does not capture or monitor costs at a procedural level. Approximate costs at a service level against budget can be provided upon request. We have assumed that you required information on colonoscopies not colposcopies.

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:

Caroline van Deventer
Communications Administrator
Email: caroline.vanDeventer@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz
Ph: 06 946 9800, ext 5840

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Cardno', followed by a small flourish or mark.

Anna Cardno
Communications Manager