

17<sup>th</sup> February 2022



### Official Information Act Request for – Cancelled Procedures/Surgeries

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 8th December 2021 by way of partial transfer from the Ministry of Health, we were transferred the following 3 questions:

1. How many surgeries /procedures/assessments have been cancelled across the country in the past year.
2. Is it possible to break that number down by month.
3. How many surgeries/procedures/assessments were cancelled in 2019 and in 2017

#### Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) 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, 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 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.

In response to your questions below, it is important to note the volumes represent changes to scheduled appointments that are either instigated by the hospital or the patient. They do not represent volumes of patients who did not receive any service. The majority of these appointments and surgeries were rescheduled for alternative dates and times.

1. How many surgeries /procedures/assessments have been cancelled across the country in the past year.
2. Is it possible to break that number down by month?  
Please note, that in years 2019, 2020 and 2021 elective/planned care activity was/has been impacted due to both the Whakaari/White Island Volcanic eruption and Covid-19.

CM Health Cancellation of Outpatient Appointments and Planned Theatre in 2021		
2021	Outpatient Appointments	Planned Theatre Events
Jan	2932	185

Feb	3355	251
Mar	4489	279
Apr	2949	262
May	3506	293
Jun	3591	265
Jul	3599	336
Aug	7233	712
Sep	6074	523
Oct	3280	133
Nov	3123	195
Dec	2738	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,869</b>	<b>3609</b>

3. **How many surgeries/procedures/assessments were cancelled in 2019 and in 2017**  
Please note that in years 2019, 2020 and 2021 elective/planned care activity was/has been impacted due to both the Whakaari/White Island Volcanic eruption and Covid-19.

<b>CM Health Cancellation of Outpatient Appointments and Planned Theatre in 2017 &amp; 2019</b>				
	<b>Outpatient Appointments</b>		<b>Planned Theatre Events</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2019</b>
Jan	2,726	2872	172	202
Feb	2,935	3164	190	245
Mar	3,700	3410	202	240
Apr	2,771	3191	153	269
May	3,418	3652	179	323
Jun	3,111	3303	191	262
Jul	3,188	3577	248	307
Aug	3,468	3530	188	295
Sep	3,255	3564	137	289
Oct	3,334	3738	190	291
Nov	3,881	3772	159	272
Dec	3,406	3604	134	264
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,193</b>	<b>41,377</b>	<b>2143</b>	<b>3259</b>

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](http://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 Counties Manukau Health 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**  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**  
**Counties Manukau Health**