

12th July 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request for – Cancelled Surgeries

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 17th June 2021, you requested the following information:

1. Can you please let us know how many surgeries have been cancelled at your DHB in the past month? Of those, how many were for cancer?
2. What were the reasons for these cancellations?

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.

1. Can you please let us know how many surgeries have been cancelled at your DHB in the past month?

Table 1 below reflects the number of surgeries completed and cancelled for the month of May 2021. In addition to the data provided below it is also important to note that over the same time an additional 1,195 acute surgeries took place.

Surgeries Completed & Cancelled May 2021	
Total Booked Surgeries	4092
Total Completed Surgeries	3149
Total Cancelled	943

Table 1: Data Sourced Health Intelligence & Informatics 24/06/2021

2. Of those, how many were for cancer?

Ten (10) of the above cancelled surgeries were cancer related.

3. What were the reasons for these cancellations?

The top ten cancellation reasons can be found below in table 1.

Cancellation Reasons	
1	Apt/Booking made in error
2	Cancelled for an Acute/Elective
3	THE-Surgery booked too early
4	Intercurrent illness
5	Apt/Treatment declined
6	List overrun
7	Session Cancelled
8	Surgeon Not available
9	Not worked up
10	DNA - patient did not arrive

Table 2: Data Sourced Health Intelligence & Informatics 24/06/2021

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 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



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health