

8th October 2021

s9(2)(a)
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Dear s9(2)(a)

Official Information Act Request for – Elective Surgery Outsourcing

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 17th September 2021 by way of partial transfer from Ministry of Health (ref: H202111084), you requested the following information:

Details on how District Health Boards are freeing up ICU beds. In particular, can you advise:

- 1. How is elective surgery across DHBs being affected by freeing up ICU beds?**
- 2. To what extent is contracting out elective surgery to the private sector being increased?**

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. How is elective surgery across DHBs being affected by freeing up ICU beds?**
- 2. To what extent is contracting out elective surgery to the private sector being increased?**
CM Health is working within the surgical matrix and elective surgery is carried out in line with the Covid-19 National Hospital Response Framework. For example, in National Alert Level 4, urgent priority 1 cases and time critical surgery is carried out.

As private providers begin to reopen as National Alert Levels change, a small number of cases have been outsourced where clinically appropriate and not impacting ICU. Elective Surgery and outsourcing continues to be reviewed and managed as Alert Levels change. CM Health is utilising all internal capacity first and this level of activity has not impacted ICU bed capacity or capacity for Covid patients.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Apa', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health