

21<sup>st</sup> March 2022

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### Official Information Act Request for – Elective Surgery

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022, you requested the following information:

1. **How many hours per week, on average, are operating theatres undertaking elective planned care and acute procedures, listed elective theatre procedures, acute theatre procedures, and both of these two individually as proportions of overall theatre availability?**
2. **What percentage of overall available theatre time is currently not used and potentially available for elective planned care procedures listed as a percentage of overall available theatre time?**

#### 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 many hours per week, on average, are operating theatres undertaking elective planned care and acute procedures, listed elective theatre procedures, acute theatre procedures, and both of these two individually as proportions of overall theatre availability?**

CM Health has theatres at Middlemore Hospital (14) and Manukau Surgery Centre (10). The information below is supplied for the 2021 calendar year.

- **Acute Theatres/Procedures**

The acute theatres are primarily at Middlemore Hospital (MMH), occasionally some minor acutes are effected at Manukau Surgery Centre (MSC).

In general, we plan for 7 acute theatres during week days' during the day time. Each theatre has a session length of 8 hours so there is provision for 280 hours per week. On average approximately 210 hours per week has an acute patient in theatre (wheels in, wheels out) – turnaround time is excluded (the average turnaround time between patients is 20 minutes and can be longer depending on a number of factors).

Over the 52 weeks of the years, on average there are 114 acute procedures per week. 75% in theatre list utilisation (time in theatre) excluding turnaround time.

Please also note that an acute Obstetrics theatre is ring-fenced at all times, and at times one of the other acute or elective theatres has to be used for an emergency obstetric case.

- **Planned Care Theatres/Procedures**

- **Middlemore Hospital**

- Planned care theatres are operational for 48 weeks of a year with the exception of the 10 public holidays and 10 days of education, leaving some 44 weeks.

- There are, on average, 6 theatres allocated to planned care at Middlemore, 1 of which is almost entirely utilised for elective caesareans. These theatres normally facilitate full day sessions but from time to time there are half day sessions.

- On average there are 230 hours per week allocated to planned care for the 44 weeks of planned care. 105% in theatre list utilisation (time in theatre) excluding turnaround time. This above 100% is from theatre over-runs.

- **Manukau Surgery Centre**

- As per Middlemore, planned care theatres are operational for 48 weeks of a year with the exception of the 10 public holidays and 10 days of education leaving some 44 weeks.

- There are, on average, 10 theatres allocated to planned care at Manukau Surgery Centre excluding endoscopy. These theatres facilitate both half and full day sessions averaging out at 370 hours per week of planned care.

- Over the 44 weeks of the years, on average there are planned care (arranged and elective) procedures per week. There is 74% in theatre list utilisation (time in theatre) excluding turnaround time.

- **Combined Middlemore and Manukau Planned Care excluding acute**

- 87% in theatre list utilisation (time in theatre) excluding turnaround time.

- 2. **What percentage of overall available theatre time is currently not used and potentially available for elective planned care procedures listed as a percentage of overall available theatre time?**

**Availability of theatres for additional Planned Care**

No time allocated to acute theatres can be made available for planned care patients.

Some planned care allocated time at both Middlemore Hospital and Manukau Surgery Centre is utilised when there is an overflow of acute demand at Middlemore. This has not been included in the current analysis.

There are no planned care theatres at either Middlemore or Manukau that are not allocated for planned care activities. From time to time some allocated Planned Care time is not utilised due

to unforeseen/unplanned activities such as DNA, sickness (patient or staff), unplanned unavailability of staff, etc.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Watson', with a small flourish at the end.

**Dr Peter Watson**  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**  
**Counties Manukau Health**