

Clinical - Surgery
Proactive Release: 08 November 2018

26 October 2018

[REDACTED]
Parliament Buildings,
Wellington 6160

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 28 September on transfer from the Ministry of Health under section 14 of the Act. You requested the following information:

- **Does the Ministry of Health or another agency controlled by the Ministry, collect data on public hospital surgery cancellation rates in the year ended 30 June 2018?**
 - **If so, what does that data reveal about cancellation rates by DHB?**

Yes, the Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) collects data and reports on Surgery Cancellations of Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) provided services.

From 1 July 2017 until 30 June 2018, CM Health completed 29,395 acute (15,035) and elective (14,360) operations across all operating theatres (at Middlemore Hospital, Manukau Surgical Centre and some elective outsourced).

For the 12 month period of 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, Counties Manukau Health had a total of 5,558 theatre cancellations. These cancellations were due to either Health-care Provider or Patient-related reasons as shown below (**Table 1**).

Counties Manukau Health	01/07/2017-30/06/2018	
Source of Cancellation	Number	Percentage
Health Care Provider	3,128	56.3%
Patient	2,430	43.7%
Total	5,558	100%

Table 1:

Of the 3,128 Health-care Provider cancellation numbers, the major reasons for the cancellations are as follows (**Table 2**):

Reason code	Number
Cancelled for another (Acute or Elective) patient	1,231
Surgeon / Anaesthetist / other staff not available	733
Theatre list time overrun/ workload	504
Additional patient preparation / tests needed	391
Equipment or capacity not available	83
Other - various	186

Table 2:

Of the 2,430 patient-related cancellation numbers, the major reasons for the cancellations are as follows (**Table 3**):

Reason code	Number
Patient declined surgery	1,086
Patient unwell / not fit for surgery on day	554
Surgery no longer required	385
Patient did not attend on day / uncontactable	213
Other Personal (transport , work , family) commitments	110
Other - various	82

Table 3:

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. Please contact us if you require clarification of the information provided. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Margie Apa
Chief Executive