

24th September 2021

s9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

Dear s9(2)(a)

Official Information Act Request for – Radiology Assessments & Investigations

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 6th September 2021, you requested the following information:

1. The number of outpatient radiology assessments/investigations per year for the past 5 years broken down under categories for X-ray, MRI, CT, Other, listed as an absolute number, percentage change from the previous year, number per capita for Maori and non-Maori and total for each category?
2. The number of outpatient radiology assessments/investigations per year for the past 5 years broken down under categories where there is a primary or main provisional diagnosis of cancer for X-ray, MRI, CT, Other, listed as an absolute number, percentage change from the previous year, number per capita for Maori and non-Maori and total for each category?
3. The number of outpatient radiology investigations cancelled delayed or postponed in levels 3 & 4 for the coronavirus outbreaks of 2020 and 2021, listed by level and year?
4. The number of outpatient radiology investigations cancelled delayed or postponed in levels 3 & 4 for the coronavirus outbreaks of 2020 and 2021 where the primary diagnosis or main provisional diagnosis was cancer, listed by level and year?
5. The number of cancelled, delayed or postponed inpatient procedures in levels 3 & 4 to date where the primary diagnosis or main provisional diagnosis was cancer, listed by level?

We contacted you on 9th September 2021 requesting you to narrow the scope of your request however received no response.

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. The number of outpatient radiology assessments/investigations per year for the past 5 years broken down under categories for X-ray, MRI, CT, Other, listed as an absolute number, percentage change from the previous year, number per capita for Maori and non-Maori and total for each category?**

Appendix 1 below reflects the data you have requested.

In response to questions two through five of your request we have identified an enormous number of reports (over 400,000) which require manual review to extract the information you have requested. We do not have structured data that records the suspicion of or presence of cancer in either referral or the report.

Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review these reports and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services. We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to decline this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

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

Appendix 1 –

CM estimated resident population from Stats NZ (as at Jan 2021)					
	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Maaori	88335	91020	93360	95400	97470
Other	338095	345885	353070	362610	369030
Pacific	119620	123510	126670	129400	132020
Non-Maaori	457715	469395	479740	492010	501050
Total	546050	560415	573100	587410	598520

Absolute Numbers					
	X-ray	MRI	CT	Other	Total
2017					
Maori	6590	605	1460	2277	10932
Non-Maaori	43029	3951	9918	13787	70685
2018					
Maori	6650	489	1521	2410	11070
Non-Maaori	44321	3229	10628	14829	73007
2019					
Maori	6698	600	1572	2488	11358
Non-Maaori	44028	4364	11555	15075	75022
2020					
Maori	5449	696	1579	2410	10134
Non-Maaori	36492	4717	11622	15253	68084
2021					
Maori	6372	877	1854	2701	11804
Non-Maaori	42229	6134	13367	17319	79049
Grand Total	241858	25662	65076	88549	421145

Number per 1000 population					
	X-ray	MRI	CT	Other	Total
2017					
Maori	74.6	6.6	15.6	23.9	112.2
Non-Maaori	94.0	8.4	20.7	28.0	141.1
2018					
Maori	75.3	5.4	16.3	25.3	113.6
Non-Maaori	96.8	6.9	22.2	30.1	145.7
2019					
Maori	75.8	6.6	16.8	26.1	116.5
Non-Maaori	96.2	9.3	24.1	30.6	149.7
2020					
Maori	61.7	7.6	16.9	25.3	104.0
Non-Maaori	79.7	10.0	24.2	31.0	135.9
2021					
Maori	72.1	9.6	19.9	28.3	121.1
Non-Maaori	92.3	13.1	27.9	35.2	157.8
Grand Total	442.9	45.8	113.6	150.7	703.6

% Change year on year					
	X-ray	MRI	CT	Other	Total
2018					
Maori	0.9%	-19.2%	4.2%	5.8%	1.3%
Non-Maaori	3.0%	-18.3%	7.2%	7.6%	3.3%
2019					
Maori	0.7%	22.7%	3.4%	3.2%	2.6%
Non-Maaori	-0.7%	35.2%	8.7%	1.7%	2.8%
2020					
Maori	-18.6%	16.0%	0.4%	-3.1%	-10.8%
Non-Maaori	-17.1%	8.1%	0.6%	1.2%	-9.2%
2021					
Maori	16.9%	26.0%	17.4%	12.1%	16.5%
Non-Maaori	15.7%	30.0%	15.0%	13.5%	16.1%