

26th January 2021

[REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request for – Treatment of firearm injuries

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 7th December 2020, you requested the following information:

“Have many people has the Counties Manukau District Health Board treated for firearm injuries since January 2016?

- **In the figures please break down how many children received treatment;**
- **How many treatments were as a result of gang violence?**
- **And what types of firearms caused each injury.”**

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 7,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 569,400 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 people has the Counties Manukau District Health Board treated for firearm injuries since January 2016?

The information you have requested is currently publicly available on the Official Information Act request page on our external website. The information you have requested can be found at the link below by searching the keyword “gunshot”:

- <https://www.countiesmanukau.health.nz/about-us/official-information-act-requests/publicly-released-oias/>

2. In the figures please break down how many children received treatment;

The information in table 1 below reflects two age bands of those who have had treatment for firearm injuries at CM Health. We have withheld the exact number per year to protect the privacy of the individuals as stating the exact number per year may make the individuals identifiable. Withholding to protect the privacy of individuals is permitted under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Discharge Year	Age - 0-15	Age - 16 +	Total
2016-2020	10	207	217

Table 1: Data Sourced Health Intelligence & Informatics 24/12/2020

3. How many treatments were as a result of gang violence?

4. And what types of firearms caused each injury.

For questions three and four above, the information you have requested is not held by CM Health. We do not record or code the type of firearm involved for injuries and determination of reason of a firearm injury around violence would need to be directed to the New Zealand Police. We are unable to provide you with this information under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 – this does not exist.

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