

10th March 2021

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request for – Women’s Health & Mental Health

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 9th February 2021, you requested the following information:

On the topic of women’s health:

- 1. Waiting times for urogynaecology**
- 2. Waiting times for colorectal surgery**
- 3. Waiting times for pelvic physiotherapy**
- 4. Staffing levels for gynaecologists/urogynaecologists and physiotherapists**
- 5. Staffing levels for specialist pelvic physiotherapists.**

On the topic of mental health:

- 1. Deaths occurring in mental health in-patient unit each year, for the last five years, and the cause of death (or suspected cause)**
- 2. Deaths of former mental health in-patients occurring within one week of discharge, and cause of death (or suspected cause). Figures for each year, for the last five years please.**
- 3. How many of these deaths were referred to the coroner? Figures for each year, for five years please.**
- 4. Staffing levels for psychiatrists; psychologists and nursing**

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.

On the topic of Women’s Health:

- 1. Waiting times for urogynaecology**

The average waiting time for First Specialist Assessment (FSA) was 73 days. This includes all women under the specialty of Gynaecology who had a urogynaecological FSA appointment during 2020 calendar year.

The average waiting time for surgery was 112 days. This group includes all women who had had a urogynae outpatient appointment and then went on to have surgery during 2020; under the day surgery unit or major surgery local category.

2. Waiting times for colorectal surgery

The average waiting time for surgery was 61 days. This includes only females under the waitlist local category of colo-rectal who had surgery during 2020. It includes all procedure types.

3. Waiting times for pelvic physiotherapy

| Priority | |
|---|---|
| Priority 1 | All patients seen within 7-10 days |
| Priority 2 | All patients seen within 28 days |
| Priority 3 | Average waiting time to be seen is 180 days |
| Approximately 80% of the P3 patients are suitable to offer the opportunity to either attend a group education session or an online link to recording of the presentation while they are waiting for an individual appointment. A small percentage of women find the information alone to be helpful enough and decline an individual appointment. | |

4. Staffing levels for gynaecologists/urogynaecologists and physiotherapists

Gynaecologists- 22

Urogynaecologists – 2 and a sub specialty trainee.

5. Staffing levels for specialist pelvic physiotherapists.

Physiotherapists- 168 (102FTE)

Specialist pelvic physiotherapists-5 (2.64FTE)

On the topic of mental health:

1. Deaths occurring in mental health in-patient unit each year, for the last five years, and the cause of death (or suspected cause)

Our mental health inpatients unit has admitted an average of 801 patients each year for the last five years. The care and safety of vulnerable service users, either within inpatient units or in the community, is our utmost priority.

Numbers lower than three have been withheld, together with the cause or suspected cause of death, under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons and family/whaanau of the deceased.

| Calendar Year | Number of Inpatient Deaths |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 2020 | - |
| 2019 | - |
| 2018 | - |
| 2017 | - |
| 2016 | <3 |

Source: Mental Health Unit

2. **Deaths of former mental health in-patients occurring within one week of discharge, and cause of death (or suspected cause). Figures for each year, for the last five years please.**
Data on deaths that occurred within one week of discharge from the mental health inpatient unit would require clinical audit of individual records in our incident management system. Therefore, we are declining to answer under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 - the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

3. **How many of these deaths were referred to the coroner? Figures for each year, for five years please.**
CM Health reports to the Coroner deaths that occur within our mental health inpatient unit and deaths of persons under the Mental Health Act who die within the community.

4. **Staffing levels for psychiatrists; pscychologists and nursing**
CM Health regularly reports on its vacancies to DHB and service leadership. Below is the most recent report run on 03 March 2021 for Mental Health & Addictions.

| Position | Budget FTE | Current Employ | Current Vacancies |
|--|------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Medical (includes SMO and MOSS) | 62.3 | 58.7 | 3.6 |
| Nursing (includes Nurse Practitioners, Senior Nurses, Registered Nurses) | 359.1 | 290.7 | 67.4 |
| Psychologists | 50.4 | 41.8 | 11.6 |

Source: OneStaff Scheduling System

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