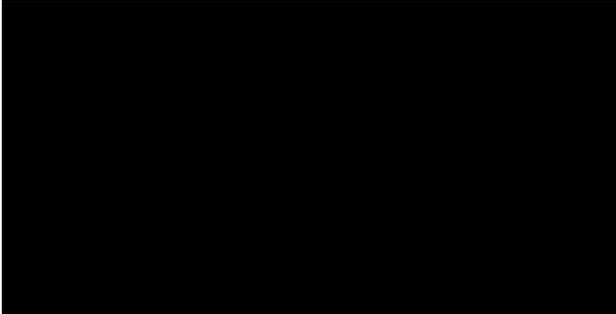


27 November 2020



Re: Official Information Request – Orthopaedic surgeons in public and private work

I refer to your Official Information Request dated 30 October 2020 requesting the following information:

With respect, I request the following information under the terms of the Official Information Act 1982:

Since January 1 2020, copies of any reports, documents, briefings, memoranda or correspondence (including complaints), both internal and external, regarding the issue of orthopaedic surgeons using work in the public system to send work to their private practices.

I have heard there are some concerns about how this has been happening/the amount of work essentially being referred or funnelled to private, and this request is intended to capture any associated documents, correspondence, complaints etc.

Since January 1 2020 there are no reports, documents, briefings, memoranda or correspondence (including complaints), both internal and external, regarding the issue of orthopaedic surgeons using work in the public system to send work to their private practices.

Auckland DHB contracts private providers for some elective surgery and this follows a documented and agreed process and is done through panel agreements with two private providers via HealthSource which cover a range of specialities including Orthopaedics. The DHB identifies a set volume of Orthopaedic patients to be outsourced in the financial year to assist in reducing waiting times for patients.

All surgical services track delivery of planned care on a weekly basis, including Orthopaedics and this includes tracking of both internal delivery and delivery from other providers.

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 response, may be published on the Auckland District Health Boards website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE

Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)