



Re: Official Information Act request – Partial transfer from Ministry of Health of request dated 25 August 2021 regarding contracting out elective surgery to private sector (Reference: H202111084)

I refer to your Official Information Act request 25 August 2021 to the Ministry of Health that has been partially transferred to District Health Boards on 17 September requesting the following information:

- **Details on how District Health Boards are freeing up ICU beds:**
 - b) To what extent is contracting out elective surgery to the private sector being increased?**

The three metro Auckland District Health Boards (Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata DHBs) continue to offer limited elective surgery while at Alert Level 3 lockdown. Elective surgery is confined to urgent and high priority surgery, including those that are non-deferrable and required within 30 days.

All three metro Auckland DHBs are meeting the demand for these cases using internal DHB capacity while maintaining sufficient Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity to meet any COVID-related demand. There is no need at this time to contract out cases to the private sector except for cardiac surgery. However, to date, the private sector has been unable to provide us with any capacity to undertake cardiac surgery due to their own capacity constraints. We continue to manage lists and actively engage with the private sector.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the metro Auckland DHBs' websites.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE

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

On behalf of:

Dr Dale Bramley, Chief Executive Officer, Waitemata District Health Board

Margie Apa, Chief Executive Officer, Counties Manukau District Health Board