

29 October 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act request –

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 12 August 2021, partially transferred to Auckland DHB 21 September 2021, requesting the following information. These parts transferred are 2, 3a, 3c, 3d, 3f, and 3g only of your request:

- 2) Of the total amount of strokes in NZ in 2019, 2020 and 2021 how many of the victims where:
 - a. Overweight
 - b. Diabetic
 - c. High blood pressure / hypertension
 - d. Atrial Fibrillation
 - e. High Cholesterol
 - f. Smokers
 - g. Identified as drinking alcohol regularly
 - h. Where clinically depressed, or identified high stress levels
 - i. Where medical misadventure strokes?
- 3) Of the total amount of strokes and in NZ in 2019, 2020 and 2021:
 - a. How many received thrombolysis treatment?
 - c. How many were referred to either the Stroke Foundation of New Zealand or Stroke Central New Zealand?
 - d. How many received some kind of rehabilitation treatment?
 - f. How many where secondary strokes?
 - g. How many resulted in disability?

Response

The information we have released to you is enclosed below. In order to provide you with further context in terms of the information you have requested, please note that for all responses to your questions data is for Auckland DHB coded hospital events only. It is based on discharge year and for coded visits, which are visits longer than three hours.

Where noted we are declining parts of your request. We are unable to provide the information requested as it would require the review of individual clinical records of patients. Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files over the course of the years you have requested. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services during this COVID-19 response time.

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 refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

1) Question 2:

2 a. and 2 e. are declined for the reasons stated above.

	2019	2020	2021
Total number of stroke events	1643	1589	848
Diabetes	416	434	250
Hypertension	699	408	210
Atrial Fibrillation	254	249	141
Smokers	211	204	98
Alcohol use	30	31	20
Depressed/Stressed	39	27	24
Medical Misadventure	8	<5	<5

Note some quantities, where indicated in this table <5, has been release summed up to less than five. The information requested is withheld under the Official Information Act – section 9(2), to protect the privacy of individuals.

2) Question 3:

3c., f., and g. are declined for the reasons stated above. Note rehabilitation and thrombolysis treatment relates to the hospital event rather than a specific diagnosis.

	2019	2020	2021
Thrombolysis	119	226	130
Rehabilitation	262	249	133

I trust this information answers your questions.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. 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 DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive