

26 November 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Re Official Information Request for Turbinate Operations Information**

I refer to your official information request dated 02 November 2021 for the following information:

**I request under the OIA information as to the number of trimming of turbinate operations performed in total for the years 1994, 1995 1996.**

**I would also request information as to the number of operations performed where the inferior turbinates were completely excised.**

**If information on that time period is unavailable, I would like the oldest information for 3 consecutive years that is available and I request that under the OIA should for any reason the other data is unavailable.**

**Response**

The information you have requested is enclosed below.

**1) The number of trimming of turbinate operations performed in total for the years 1994, 1995 1996**

From 1994 to 1996 NZ was using ICD-9-CM Medical Coding and any turbinectomy that was synchronous required sinusectomy and therefore was not recorded.

The information requested is therefore not held and we have no reasonable grounds to believe it is held by any other agency. This part of your request is declined under s 18 (e) and (g) of the Official Information Act.

**2) I would like the oldest information for 3 consecutive years that is available (a) and (b) I would also request information as to the number of operations performed where the inferior turbinates were completely excised.**

The earliest accurate procedure codes from our data warehouse are from 2005.

For the 3 consecutive years 2005, 2006, 2007 there were 151 cases where a turbinectomy was completed. In this time period also septoplasty codes could also include any turbinectomy that was performed.

There were 141 additional cases where a septoplasty was completed. These may or may not have included a turbinectomy.

The classification does not distinguish trimming, nor which of the three turbinates were resected. This part of your question, (b) can therefore not be answered.

The information requested is therefore not held and we have no reasonable grounds to believe it is held by any other agency. This part of your request is declined under s 18 (e) and (g) of the Official Information Act.

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](http://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 sincerely,



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
**Chief Executive**