

23 June 2022

[REDACTED]

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Request – Precocious Puberty Treatment Statistics

I refer to your official information request received on 30 May 2022, seeking the following information:

- 1) How many children were referred for precocious puberty in each calendar year from 2006 until the most recent available year (presumably 2021)?
- 2) How many children were being treated (i.e. total ongoing treatments) for precocious puberty in each calendar year from 2006 until the most recent available year?

Response

- 1) How many children were referred for precocious puberty in each calendar year from 2006 until the most recent available year (presumably 2021)?

We do not routinely collect or collate data regarding referrals or treatment for precocious puberty.

We are therefore 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 15 years and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would require taking frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

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 s18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

- 2) How many children were being treated (i.e. total ongoing treatments) for precocious puberty in each calendar year from 2006 until the most recent available year?

Children who require treatment for precocious puberty receive Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone (GnRH) Analogues. This medication is used for multiple conditions in addition to precocious puberty. We do not routinely collect or collate data on the use of GnRH Analogues.

We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(e) of the Official Information Act because the information requested does not exist.

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 DHB website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Dotchin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Margaret Dotchin
Acting Chief Executive