

16 September 2022



Tēnā koe

**Your Official Information Act request, references: HN200003743 and 20220826-1291  
Cardiac patients and planned care waiting lists**

Thank you for your email of 26 August, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

**I received the data attached regarding urgent heart surgery waiting lists. I would like to request more comprehensive figures to get a full picture because this really shows a small snapchat.**

- 1. The number of cardiac patients waiting on urgency band 1,2,3,4 each week from February this year to date.**
- 2. The same numbers for 2021,2020, 2019.**
- 3. Also how are planned care waiting lists collected? What are the priority bands?**
- 4. I'd like to request the data for the total number of patients waiting for planned surgery currently (most recent figures), Aug 2021, Aug 2020 and Aug 2019 for each priority band - broken down by department (cardiac, oncology, orthopaedics, gynaecology, neuro).**

**Response**

Please see attached Attachment 1 OIA 1291 [redacted] Cardiac Data with the data requested set out in two tables. Table One provides the response to questions 1 and 2. Table Two provides the response to question 3.

You have asked about how the planned care waitlists are collected. When there is a treatment pathway determined (known as 'decision-to-treat'), a clinical decision is made about which priority category is assigned to the patient. This helps identify which cases on the waitlist are clinically urgent.

We have defined and categorised the priority bands. For each speciality the clinical indications for priority categories is different. Broadly speaking, the planned care priority categories reflect the ideal time window in which the planned procedure should occur.

| Priority Category                              | P1     | P2          | P3   | P4      |
|--|--------|-------------|------|---------|
| <b>Average Target Days across all services</b> | 14     | 28          | 42   | 120     |
| <b>Description</b>                             | Urgent | Semi-Urgent | Soon | Routine |

In Table Two there are higher numbers marked as 'no category assigned' across 2019 and 2020. In late 2020 the priority categories were properly defined. Prior to this, the individual services actively managed the planned procedure waitlists based on clinical urgency. Patients marked as 'no category assigned' could range between P1 to P4, and those in 2021 to 2022 are likely to be a result of directly booking in the procedure at the decision-to-treat stage.

### **How to get in touch**

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [ويا@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:ويا@adhb.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Dr Michael Shepherd**  
**Interim District Director**  
**Te Toka Tumai Auckland**

Encl.

1. Attachment 1 OIA 1291 [REDACTED] Cardiac Data

[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](http://TeWhatuOra.govt.nz)

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**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
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