

10 August 2020

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Re: Official Information Act Request

I refer to your Official Information Act request received on 9 July 2020 in which you specifically requested the following:

- **The number of clients who received immediate breast reconstruction following a mastectomy in 2019/20**
Two patients received immediate breast construction following mastectomy.
- **The average breast reconstruction wait time for 2019/20**
The average wait time for breast reconstruction is 391 days.
- **The number of women currently on the waitlist for reconstruction following a mastectomy**
There are currently 58 women currently on the waitlist for reconstruction.
- **The number of women who did not meet waitlist criteria**
There were no patients who did not meet the waitlist criteria.
- **An outline of criteria that guides/ governs whether a woman seeking breast reconstruction is accepted or denied treatment.**
We accept and assess virtually all patients who are referred for consideration of breast reconstruction. In order to go on the waiting list the criteria are:
 1. The patients must be free of all forms of nicotine for at least 3 months.
 2. The patients must have a BMI of 30 or less, or be striving in that direction so that their weight trajectory is likely to meet that criteria in the anticipated timeframe.
 3. Metabolic conditions such as diabetes must be under optimal control.
 4. The patients have to have realistic expectations of what can be achieved surgically.
 5. Age itself is not a specific criteria.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Office can be contacted on 0800 802 602 or on-line at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>.

Yours sincerely



Chris Fleming
Chief Executive Officer