

06 October 2020

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Re: Official Information Act Request

I refer to your Official Information Act request received 13 July 2020 in which you specifically requested the following:

- *Can you please tell me the number of children currently waiting for dental work under anaesthesia at your DHB?*

Current waitlist is 208 children, this includes children waiting at Southland Hospital and at the Dental School in Dunedin.

- *How does this compare with the past four quarters?*

We don't report wait lists quarterly or capture historical data in this way. We are able, however, to advise on any given day how many children are awaiting treatment. As an estimate, we would say that the wait list for GA procedures has been fairly static for the last year.

- *If there is a longer than expected wait time, what is being done to address that?*

Catch up lists are currently being organised via the Mobile Surgical Bus, which will take 40 children from that list to reduce it leaving the Dental School with a manageable number. We will continue to closely monitor this.

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
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