

19 July 2021



**Re: Official Information Act request – Dental surgery data**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 21 June 2021 requesting the following information:

- 1. The number of children aged 0-14 who had dental surgery in 2014, 2017 and 2020 conducted by Auckland DHB services, including specialist services such as the Auckland Regional Hospital and Specialist Dentistry.**

Calendar year	2014	2017	2020	Total
Number of children	2018	2087	1691	5796

COVID-19 impacted oral health services like the Auckland Regional Hospital and Specialist Dentistry in 2020, as dental care and surgery often requires oral health workers being in close proximity to the patient's mouth and throat area, and uses droplet and aerosol-generating procedures.

In line with guidance from the Dental Council of New Zealand and the Ministry of Health, to protect oral health workers from the risk of contracting COVID-19, only urgent and emergency dental treatment was carried out during alert levels 3 and 4 in 2020. Oral health services were also somewhat impacted during alert level 2.

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](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 faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)