

2 November 2022

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: HNZ00005654

Thank you for your email of 20 September and clarified 4 October, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

For context, like many districts, Te Toka Tumai is experiencing an increase in demand for planned care surgeries and radiology assessments such as echocardiograms, which is partly linked to COVID-19 related issues of recent years, staffing vacancies, and the pressures these have placed on the public health system.

Patient safety is Te Toka Tumai Auckland's top priority and we are taking every possible action we can to address the situation, including both short and long-term strategies to manage demand.

As part of managing demand across our hospitals and prioritising providing urgent care, Te Toka Tumai Auckland regularly reviews our waiting lists to ensure those who need surgery the most are prioritised. In addition, we work with other hospitals in the region to respond to acute and planned care demand and utilise private providers where possible.

At Te Toka Tumai Auckland:

- 1. How many people are on the waiting list to undergo elective surgical procedures as of 20th September 2022?**
- 2. How many people were on the waiting list to undergo elective surgical procedures on 20th September 2021, 20th September 2020, and 20th September 2019?**
- 3. What is the average wait time currently, in terms of months, for patients wanting to undergo elective surgical procedures at Auckland Hospital?**
- 4. How many patients are on the waitlist for a non-urgent echocardiogram?**
- 5. What is the current wait time in terms of months, for patients in need of a non-urgent echocardiogram?**
- 6. How many people are currently on the waiting list for a non-urgent echocardiogram?**

We confirmed with you on 4 October that your request was directed at Auckland City Hospital and adult patients.

Response

1. How many people are on the waiting list to undergo elective surgical procedures as of 20th September 2022?

There are 10,744 patients aggregated across all specialties who are waiting for procedures as at 20 September 2022.

2. How many people were on the waiting list to undergo elective surgical procedures on 20th September 2021, 20th September 2020, and 20th September 2019?

The figures below are based on the closest weekly snapshot of the total surgical waitlist (aggregated across all specialties).

2019:	5,677
2020:	6,491
2021:	8,520

3. What is the average wait time currently, in terms of months, for patients wanting to undergo elective surgical procedures at Auckland Hospital?

Note: We have interpreted this to include surgical procedures which are managed by services under Te Toka Tumai Auckland where the procedure may be also completed at Greenlane Clinical Centre.

The average (mean) wait time for patients currently on the waitlist is 3.5 months (107 days) when you aggregate across all specialities. (The report run as at 11 October 2022)

4. How many patients are on the waitlist for a non-urgent echocardiogram?

There are 3,214 patients on the waitlist for a non-urgent echocardiogram waitlist Non-urgent excludes high priority categories, P1 and High Suspicion of Cancer. (The report run as at 11 October 2022)

5. What is the current wait time in terms of months, for patients in need of a non-urgent echocardiogram?

The average wait time for patients currently waiting for a non-urgent echocardiogram is 8.5 months (260 days) (report run as at 11 October 2022)

6. How many people are currently on the waiting list for a non-urgent echocardiogram?

This question is the same as question 4, the answer is the same as above, at 4.

How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can contact us at oia@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 or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on Health NZ's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Sue Waters for



Dr Mike Shepherd
Interim District Director
Te Toka Tumai Auckland

TeWhatuOra.govt.nz

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government