

5 April 2022

§ 9(2)(a)

By email: § 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H202203311

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 25 February 2022 for information regarding access to mental health care. The Ministry contacted you on 8 March 2022 to clarify what data was available and your request was clarified as follows. I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

*1 & 2 clarified to: Please provide data on wait times [for mental healthcare treatment after screening] as offered, month-on-month from October 2020 – September 2021, and October 2019 – September 2020*

This information is attached as Appendix 1. Please refer to the notes for information on how the data were extracted and to assist with interpretation and use of these data.

Please note that wait times data are not available month-on-month as data are collected for a rolling 12-month period, rather than at a particular point in time.

*3. How many mental healthcare workers have been lost/stood down since the Government's Covid-19 Public Health Response workplace mandates came into force in November last year, per DHB? Please provide documentation that illustrates the numbers of healthcare workers lost in each DHB. Please provide DHB breakdowns and percentages of mental healthcare workforce lost since November 2021.*

*4. Please provide documentation or data to indicate the losses of counsellors, case managers, psychologists and psychiatrists in New Zealand since the beginning of November 2021.*

The Ministry does not hold information regarding these parts of your request; however, the district health boards (DHBs) may be able to provide you with the information you have requested. You can find their contact details at: [www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/district-health-boards/district-health-board-websites](http://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/district-health-boards/district-health-board-websites).

*5. Please provide documentation/data sets showing numbers of new presentations/appeals for help with mental health, month-on-month for the last 24 months.*

This information is attached as Appendix 2. Again, please refer to the notes for information on how the data were extracted and to assist with interpretation and use of these data.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kiri Richards".

Kiri Richards  
**Acting Deputy Director-General  
Mental Health and Addiction**

**Wait times for Provider Arm mental health services  
By District Health Board  
Oct 2020 - Sep 2021, and Oct 2019 - Sep 2020**

DHB	Wait time	Oct 2020 - Sep 2021	Oct 2019 - Sep 2020
NZ Total	< 3 weeks	79.7%	76.0%
	3-8 weeks	14.4%	14.1%
	> 8 weeks	6.0%	9.9%
Auckland	< 3 weeks	83.9%	80.0%
	3-8 weeks	10.0%	10.2%
	> 8 weeks	6.1%	9.8%
Bay of Plenty	< 3 weeks	82.8%	79.9%
	3-8 weeks	12.6%	12.7%
	> 8 weeks	4.6%	7.4%
Canterbury	< 3 weeks	74.0%	70.9%
	3-8 weeks	16.9%	16.7%
	> 8 weeks	9.1%	12.4%
Capital and Coast	< 3 weeks	75.8%	66.7%
	3-8 weeks	15.0%	19.3%
	> 8 weeks	9.2%	14.0%
Counties Manukau	< 3 weeks	85.5%	81.1%
	3-8 weeks	10.5%	11.5%
	> 8 weeks	4.0%	7.4%
Hawkes Bay	< 3 weeks	93.2%	87.6%
	3-8 weeks	6.0%	8.2%
	> 8 weeks	0.8%	4.1%
Hutt Valley	< 3 weeks	73.8%	72.1%
	3-8 weeks	17.5%	19.5%
	> 8 weeks	8.7%	8.5%
Lakes	< 3 weeks	66.0%	63.6%
	3-8 weeks	27.5%	23.8%
	> 8 weeks	6.5%	12.5%
MidCentral	< 3 weeks	84.5%	84.6%
	3-8 weeks	13.4%	10.4%
	> 8 weeks	2.1%	5.0%
Nelson Marlborough	< 3 weeks	68.9%	62.9%
	3-8 weeks	15.5%	15.4%
	> 8 weeks	15.6%	21.7%
Northland	< 3 weeks	79.8%	78.9%
	3-8 weeks	14.3%	14.6%
	> 8 weeks	6.0%	6.5%
South Canterbury	< 3 weeks	81.0%	80.6%
	3-8 weeks	15.0%	12.8%

Prepared 08/03/2022

Source: MH03 (PP8) Reports Oct-19-Sep-20 & Oct-20-Sep-21 (based on PRIMHD data).

Notes:

1. PRIMHD (Programme for the Integration of Mental Health Data) is a Ministry of Health national mental health and addiction information collection of service activity and outcomes data for health consumers.
2. DHB mental health teams data only has been used from the MH03 wait times report for this request (addiction and NGO services data has been excluded).
3. Wait times data is collected for a rolling 12 month period rather than at a particular point in time.
4. Only new clients (with no prior MHA service activity) are included in the MH03 wait times report.
5. At the time of this request, Oct-20 - Sep-21 is the most recent period that wait times can be reported for due to a lag in reporting to PRIMHD and the quarterly MH03 wait times report preparation cycle.
6. Some organisations have breaks in reporting and/or incomplete data in PRIMHD for some time periods. Hawkes Bay DHB has significant data completeness issues.
7. PRIMHD is a living data collection, which continues to be revised and updated as data reporting processes are improved. For this reason, previously published data may be liable to amendments.

DHB	Wait time	Oct 2020 - Sep 2021	Oct 2019 - Sep 2020
	> 8 weeks	4.1%	6.6%
Southern	< 3 weeks	77.1%	77.0%
	3-8 weeks	17.0%	15.0%
	> 8 weeks	5.9%	8.0%
Tairāwhiti	< 3 weeks	89.6%	83.4%
	3-8 weeks	6.3%	11.9%
	> 8 weeks	4.1%	4.7%
Taranaki	< 3 weeks	78.9%	76.1%
	3-8 weeks	17.8%	14.7%
	> 8 weeks	3.2%	9.2%
Waikato	< 3 weeks	86.5%	72.2%
	3-8 weeks	7.9%	12.7%
	> 8 weeks	5.6%	15.0%
Wairarapa	< 3 weeks	76.0%	73.5%
	3-8 weeks	15.6%	14.2%
	> 8 weeks	8.4%	12.3%
Waitemata	< 3 weeks	73.4%	74.8%
	3-8 weeks	21.1%	15.6%
	> 8 weeks	5.4%	9.6%
West Coast	< 3 weeks	85.3%	79.7%
	3-8 weeks	11.9%	13.9%
	> 8 weeks	2.8%	6.4%
Whanganui	< 3 weeks	80.0%	77.5%
	3-8 weeks	17.0%	14.0%
	> 8 weeks	3.0%	8.5%

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

## Number of new clients seen by Provider Arm mental health services

## By District Health Board (DHB)

Oct 2020 - Sep 2021, and Oct 2019 - Sep 2020

DHB	# new clients seen	
	2020/21	2019/20
Auckland DHB	5121	4914
Bay of Plenty DHB	3074	2657
Canterbury DHB	3845	3679
Capital and Coast DHB	3357	2878
Counties Manukau DHB	5720	5097
Hawkes Bay DHB	2056	1737
Hutt Valley DHB	1448	1156
Lakes DHB	1618	1518
MidCentral DHB	1024	1576
Nelson Marlborough DHB	1545	1435
Northland DHB	1647	1599
South Canterbury DHB	662	546
Southern DHB	3078	3034
Tairāwhiti DHB	460	253
Taranaki DHB	1396	1243
Waikato DHB	3267	3211
Wairarapa DHB	371	374
Waitematā DHB	5632	5112
West Coast DHB	464	404
Whanganui DHB	835	821
<b>Total</b>	<b>46620</b>	<b>43244</b>

Prepared 08/03/2022

Source: MH03 (PP8) Reports Oct-19-Sep-20 &amp; Oct-20-Sep-21 (based on PRIMHD data).

Notes:

1. PRIMHD (Programme for the Integration of Mental Health Data) is a Ministry of Health national mental health and addiction information collection of service activity and outcomes data for health consumers.
2. The MH03 wait times report has been used as the data source for this request as it considers only new clients (with no mental health and addiction service activity in the prior year). This allows a view of access for new clients.
3. Clients that have been referred in the time period will not be counted if they have not yet been seen.
4. DHB mental health teams data only has been used from the MH03 wait times report for this request (addiction and non-governmental organisation services data has been excluded).
5. In addition, the report covers a rolling 12 month period, so it is not possible to supply data by month.
6. At the time of this request, Oct-20 - Sep-21 is the most recent period that wait times can be reported for due to a lag in reporting to PRIMHD and the quarterly MH03 wait times report preparation cycle.
7. Some organisations have breaks in reporting and/or incomplete data in PRIMHD for some time periods. Hawkes Bay DHB has significant data completeness issues.
8. PRIMHD is a living data collection, which continues to be revised and updated as data reporting processes are improved. For this reason, previously published data may be liable to amendments.