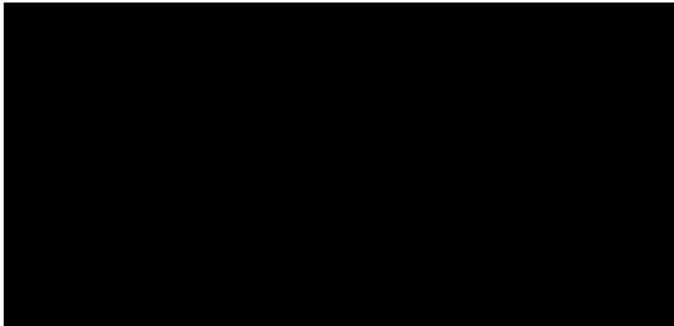


06 AUG 2019



### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to district health boards (DHBs) of 19 June 2019, for:

1. *"What is the DHB's top 10 priorities for spending in the 2019/20 financial year?"*
2. *What were the DHB's top 10 priorities for spending in each of the past 5 financial years?*
3. *What has been the proportion of patients accepted for urgent diagnostic colonoscopy who received the procedure within 14 days (2 weeks) for each of the last 5 years? And what is the target for 2019/20?*
4. *What has been the proportion of patients who received their first treatment (or other management) within 62 days of being referred with a high suspicion of cancer and a need to be seen within 2 weeks, for each of the last 5 years; and what is the target for 2019/20*
5. *Pls also provide any spending priorities or targets the DHB has to hand for the years beyond 2019/20, if those exist.*
6. *Any current most-recent statement of DHB priorities regarding cancer management or treatment, or concerns with that, that the Ministry has been briefed on or received any report about, oral or written, from your DHB in the 2018/2019 or 2019/20 years to date."*

Questions three, four, and six of your request have been transferred to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for response.

For clarity, I will address each of your questions in turn.

*What has been the proportion of patients accepted for urgent diagnostic colonoscopy who received the procedure within 14 days (2 weeks) for each of the last 5 years? And what is the target for 2019/20?*

The Ministry does not record the number of patients each year who received an urgent colonoscopy procedure within 14 days. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that it is held by another agency, Minister of the Crown, or organisation.

The Ministry does, however, receive snapshot data from DHBs showing the number of patients each month who received an urgent colonoscopy within 14 days, and the number who waited longer than 14 days. Please find below a table showing the proportion of patients seen within 14 days during May for the past five years.

	May 2015	May 2016	May 2017	May 2018	May 2019
Percentage seen within 14 days	70.4%	90.5%	88.4%	87.4%	92.2%

Note:

- Patients awaiting a colonoscopy as at month end who have been waiting for less than 14 days are included in the number of patients seen within 14 days.
- Patients awaiting a colonoscopy as at month end who have been waiting for 14 days or more are included in the number of patients seen outside of the 14 day period.

The table below shows the target proportion of people to receive a diagnostic colonoscopy within 14 days for each of the past five financial years, and for 2019/20.

Financial year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Percentage seen within 14 days	75%	75%	85%	90%	90%	90%

*What has been the proportion of patients who received their first treatment (or other management) within 62 days of being referred with a high suspicion of cancer and a need to be seen within 2 weeks, for each of the last 5 years; and what is the target for 2019/20*

The data you have requested is available online up to the 2017/18 financial year. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as it is publicly available. This data is available here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/health-targets/how-my-dhb-performing-2017-18>. Data for the 2018/19 financial year and the 2019/20 financial year has not yet been compiled. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act. The information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that it is held by another agency, Minister of the Crown, or organisation.

Your request for the target for 2019/20 is refused under section 18(d). Information regarding the performance measures for 2019/20 is publicly available here: <https://nsfl.health.govt.nz/accountability/performance-and-monitoring/performance-measures/performance-measures-201920>.

*Any current most-recent statement of DHB priorities regarding cancer management or treatment, or concerns with that, that the Ministry has been briefed on or received any report about, oral or written, from your DHB in the 2018/2019 or 2019/20 years to date.*

The best current statement of DHB priorities is captured by the letter of expectation sent by Hon Dr David Clark, Minister of Health, to the Chairs of DHBs in December 2018. A further letter updating these priorities was sent following the Wellbeing Budget in May 2019. Both letters are publicly available on the Nationwide Service Framework Library here:

<https://nsfl.health.govt.nz/dhb-planning-package/201920-planning-package/supplementary-information-201920-planning-guidelines-1>.

I trust that this information fulfils your request. Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry of Health website (if applicable).

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Woodley  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Population Health and Prevention**