

26 January 2021

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]
Ref: H202009427

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 18 December 2020 to the Ministry for Health (the Ministry) for:

“The number of early medical abortions by each District Health Board since the beginning of 2020 subdivided by:

- a) Month*
- b) Gestation*
- c) Rate of complications*
- d) Reasons given where relevant”*

The information you have requested is outlined in the table on page three, categorised by month, gestation and rate of complications. Information regarding reasons for early medical abortions (EMA) is not held by the Ministry and we do not believe this is held by any other agency subject to the Act. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

Please note, due to the small size of EMA's in district health boards (DHB) numerals lower than 10 are represented by '>10' to protect the privacy of individuals.

On 24 March 2020 the Abortion Legislation Act 2020 that transferred responsibility for abortion services to the Ministry came into effect. Therefore, the Ministry can only provide data on early medical abortions from this date. Also, the data the Ministry collects for EMA comes directly from abortion service providers. The legislation requires notification of abortion to the Ministry within one month of the procedure. Only DHBs that report EMA are represented in the data.

The data collected uses estimated gestation as reported by the abortion service provider. EMA is provided up to 9 weeks (63 days) gestation. Complication rates must be interpreted with caution, the rates provided are a point in time and based on a very small number of procedures in most cases.

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 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Prestidge', written in a cursive style.

Emma Prestidge
Group Manager, Quality Assurance and Safety
Health System Improvement and Innovation

Auckland District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*		>10	>10	18	>10	>10	34
April		>10	52	68	32	10	169
May		>10	29	35	21	10	101
June		>10	28	35	31	>10	103
July		10	46	47	29	>10	136
August		11	48	48	32	>10	141
September		>10	51	46	37	>10	145
October		>10	37	50	31	>10	133
November	>10	19	60	56	26	>10	163
December*		>10	32	30	16	>10	87
Totals	>10	82	389	433	262	45	1212

Reported rate of complications = 0.3 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Bay of Plenty District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*			>10	>10	>10		>10
April	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10		15
May	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10		14
June		>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	16
July		>10	>10	>10	>10		20
August		>10	15	>10	>10		33
September		>10	>10	>10	>10		16
October		>10	12	>10	>10		26
November		>10	10	>10	>10		18
December*		>10	>10	>10	>10		13
Totals	>10	26	66	45	34	>10	174

Reported rate of complications = 2.9 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Canterbury District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*		>10	14	>10	>10	>10	38
April		18	31	22	>10	>10	78
May	>10	12	19	15	>10		53
June	>10	>10	18	13	>10		45
July	>10	>10	23	14	11		55
August	>10	>10	23	19	>10	>10	56
September	>10	>10	23	30	>10		70
October		>10	18	13	>10		43
November		>10	17	13	>10	>10	43
December*	>10	>10	15	20	>10	>10	50
Totals	10	75	201	167	73	>10	531

Reported rate of complications = 0.2 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Capital and Coast District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*		>10	>10	>10	>10		>10
April			>10	>10	>10		21
May		>10	12	>10	>10		26
June		>10	>10	>10	>10		13
July		>10	10	11	>10	>10	30
August		>10	>10	>10	>10		22
September		>10	10	>10	>10		21
October		>10	10	>10	>10		28
November		>10	>10	>10	>10		12
December*		>10	>10	>10	>10		>10
Totals	>10	19	72	57	40	>10	189

Reported rate of complications = 0.5 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Hawkes Bay District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*			>10	>10	>10		>10
April		>10	>10	>10	>10		16
May		>10	>10	>10	>10		>10
June	>10		>10	>10	>10		15
July		>10	>10	>10	>10		14
August		>10	>10	>10	>10		>10
September		>10	>10	>10	>10		>10
October			>10	>10	>10		13
November		>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	13
December*			>10		>10		>10
Totals	>10	>10	33	38	21	>10	102

Reported rate of complications = 2 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Lakes District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*	>10	>10	>10	>10			>10
April	>10	>10	13	>10	>10		28
May		>10	10	>10			20
June		>10	>10	>10	>10		20
July		>10	11	>10	>10		28
August		>10	10	>10	>10		35
September		>10	>10	>10	>10		16
October	>10	>10	11	>10	>10	>10	27
November	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10		25
December*	>10	>10	>10	>10			>10
Totals	>10	49	84	50	25	>10	215

Reported rate of complications = 0.9 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Mid Central District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10		16
April		>10	15	16	11	>10	52
May	>10	>10	15	>10	>10	>10	37
June	>10	10	>10	>10	>10	>10	25
July	>10	10	10	15	>10		43
August	>10	12	14	15	>10	>10	54
September		17	11	>10	>10	>10	38
October	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	29
November		>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	41
December*	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10		11
Totals	19	84	92	85	46	20	346

Reported rate of complications = 3.8 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Nelson Marlborough District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*			>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
April		>10	>10	>10	>10		14
May			>10	>10			>10
June		>10	>10	>10	>10		18
July		>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	17
August		>10	>10	>10	>10		13
September			10	>10	>10	>10	21
October		>10	>10	>10	>10		16
November		>10	>10	>10	>10		12
December*		>10	>10	>10	>10		>10
Totals	0	14	46	46	25	>10	135

Reported rate of complications = 0.8 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Northland District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*			>10	>10	>10		10
April		>10	>10	>10	>10		25
May		>10	>10	>10	>10		14
June	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10		16
July		>10	>10	>10	>10		16
August			11	>10	>10	>10	19
September		>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	16
October		>10	>10	>10	10		27
November		>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	19
December*			>10	>10			>10
Totals	>10	20	61	45	36	>10	166

Reported rate of complications = 1.3 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

South Canterbury District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*							>10
April				>10			>10
May	>10				>10		>10
June		>10	>10	>10	>10		>10
July			>10				>10
August	>10		>10	>10	>10		>10
September	>10	>10	>10	>10			>10
October	>10				>10		>10
November	>10			>10			>10
December*	>10		>10	>10	>10		>10
Totals	11	>10	13	>10	>10	>10	39

Reported rate of complications = 0 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Southern District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*				>10	>10	>10	10
April	>10	10	16	13	>10	>10	53
May	>10	12	14	10	>10	>10	43
June	>10	>10	11	10	10		41
July	>10	15	20	14	10	>10	65
August	>10	11	12	>10	>10	>10	36
September	>10	10	11	17	>10	>10	44
October	>10	11	14	16	>10	>10	52
November	>10	>10	12	15	>10	>10	44
December*	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10		>10
Totals	16	86	113	110	51	20	396

Reported rate of complications = 3.5 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Tairāwhiti District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*		>10					>10
April		>10	>10		>10		>10
May		>10	>10		>10		>10
June		>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
July		>10	>10	>10			13
August		>10	>10	>10	>10		11
September		>10	>10	>10	>10		11
October		>10	>10	>10			10
November		>10	>10	>10			16
December*							
Totals	>10	33	26	15	>10	>10	83

Rate of complications = 4.8 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Taranaki District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*		>10	>10	>10			>10
April	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10		22
May		>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	19
June		>10	>10	>10	>10		10
July	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	20
August		>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	22
September	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	22
October		>10	>10	>10	>10		23
November		>10	>10	>10		>10	>10
December*							
Totals	>10	42	41	29	23	10	149

Reported rate of complications = 0 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete

Waikato District Health Board EMA notifications 24 March 2020 to 1 Jan 2021

Month	Estimated gestation (weeks)						Totals
	4 (or less)	5	6	7	8	9	
March*				>10			>10
April				>10	10		17
May		>10	>10	>10	>10		14
June		>10	>10	>10	>10		12
July		>10	>10	>10	>10		12
August			>10	>10	>10	>10	17
September			>10	>10	>10	>10	18
October			>10	>10	>10		14
November			>10	>10	>10		10
December*				>10			>10
Totals	>10	>10	19	49	43	>10	117

Reported rate of complications = 0 (per 100 reported EMA procedures)

*data for March and December incomplete