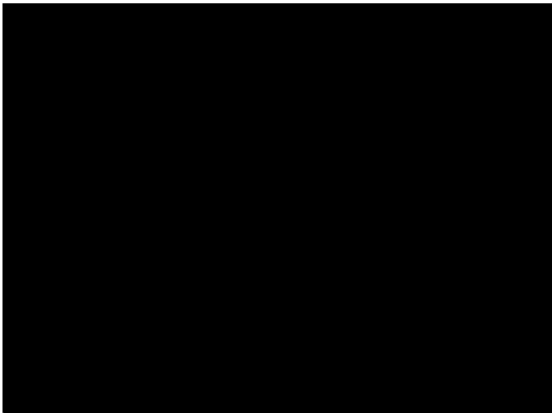




23 June 2022



Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 30 May 2022 requesting information under the terms of the Official Information Act 1982. We respond to your request as follows:

1. Numbers of children referred for precocious puberty in each calendar year from 2006 until 2021

We are unable to advise the numbers of children referred for precocious puberty as they would be referred to general paediatric medicine and this would not include reference to precocious puberty as 'reason for referral'.

A manual search of all referrals by a clinical member of staff would need to occur in order to extract the information. Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, we are refusing your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA. We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to your request would help, as required by section 18(a) of the OIA. However, it would not help as it would directly impact on the DHB's operations.

2. Number of children treated (i.e total ongoing treatments) for precocious puberty in each calendar year from 2006 until 2021

Information regarding the number of children treated i.e. total ongoing treatments for precocious puberty in each calendar year from 2006 until 2021 is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 - because the information is not held, and is not believed by Waikato DHB to be held by or is more closely connected with the functions of, any other Department, Minister, organisation or local authority.

If a referral for precocious puberty was accepted the child would be booked into a general paediatric medicine clinic. We do not use a coding system, which means we cannot extract numbers of children treated given the varying treatment options.

We can identify the inpatient admissions who have a diagnosis of precocious puberty. This coding is only used, generally, if a treatment intervention has been undertaken that required the child to be admitted for more than three hours. However are unable to supply information if treated as an outpatient unless an activity code has specifically been used attached to an episode.

We are therefore unable to give you accurate information as to how many children have been treated for precocious puberty.

Waikato DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publically funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review the decision to withhold the information. The Ombudsman's postal address is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
P O Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

Yours sincerely



Christine Lowry
Executive Director - Waikato Hospital and Community Services
Waikato District Health Board