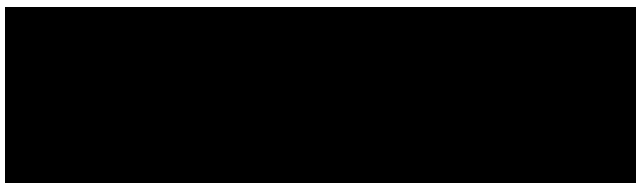




11 May 2022



Dear 

### Official Information Request

Thank you for your email of 16 April 2022 requesting the following information subject to the Official Information Act:

- 1. The number of women referred to Maternal Mental Health to this District Health Board (DHB) in 2021 and the number that were accepted**
- 2. The current wait times for Maternal Mental Health in this DHB**

The tables below contain the information requested.

Calendar Year	Number of referrals
<b>2019</b>	395
<b>2020</b>	422
<b>2021</b>	263

Calendar Year	Average wait time (days)
<b>2019</b>	20
<b>2020</b>	20
<b>2021</b>	12
<b>2022</b>	10

Waikato DHB has a small, specialist, secondary peri-natal mental health service. The information provided above is in relation to this service only and does not reflect any of the work that happens in primary care settings.

When providing the information above, it is helpful to note for context that not all referrals to this specialist team require secondary service level support. We do not routinely capture information in relation to the number of referrals we do not accept, but all referrals are reviewed and if necessary - referred onward to primary services. The referrals we do accept become part of our caseload data. Some of these individuals will remain on the caseload for some time, whilst others will require brief involvement with our services. Therefore, the information we have provided may not be comparable to other DHB information, which may have been collated in a different way.

Further, it is important to note that this service does not carry a 'waiting list'. The review process for referrals involves the multi-disciplinary team, including specialist psychiatric input.

Referrals are prioritised based on clinical need and the wait time information we have shared here is in relation to the time taken from the receipt of the referral to the first face-to-face contact with the service.

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.

I hope this information is of help to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CL', with a flourish at the end.

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