

23 March 2021

OIA Reference #: OIA2021020102

PN

Email: fyi-request-14592-cc749841@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe PN

Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) – Response – OIA 2021020102

Thank you for your official information request regarding average wait times of outpatient appointments at Wellington Regional Hospital, which was received by Capital & Coast District Health Board (CCDHB) on 1 February 2021. You requested the following information:

“I would like to request the longest, shortest, median and average wait times for outpatient-patients (referred by GPs to see a specialist (First appointment) at Wellington hospital over the last 6 months, and 1 year). Please provide the wait times data split by each specialty eg. Your response should tell the wait times specifically for each specialty like number of days to see a cardiologist or urologist or gynecologist etc.”

On 2 March 2021, we notified you that you could expect a response from us on or by 23 March 2021.

Our response to your request is outlined below.

Response

Table 1 below summarises the number of days between the referral receipt date and the attendance date for a patient attending a publicly funded first specialist assessment (FSA). The data applies to the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020. It has been split by speciality where the patients were recorded as being referred from a general practitioner and seen at Wellington Regional Hospital.

Table 1. Outpatients First Specialist Appointments 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 (six months)

	Minimum Number of Days	Maximum Number of Days	Average of Number of Days	Median of Number of Days
Cardiology - 1st attendance	1	177	71	89
Cardiothoracic - 1st attendance	8	140	46	74
Dermatology - 1st attendance	10	228	127	119
Diabetes - 1st attendance	2	159	65	81

Ear Nose and Throat - 1st attendance	0	224	63	112
Endocrinology - 1st attendance	1	195	86	98
Fracture Clinic - 1st attendance	0	170	10	85
Gastroenterology - 1st attendance	7	190	95	99
General Medicine - 1st attendance	0	196	127	98
General Surgery - 1st attendance	5	299	95	152
Gynaecology - 1st attendance	0	260	74	130
Haematology - 1st attendance	2	141	35	72
Immunology (excludes rheumatology) - 1st attendance	53	164	96	109
Infectious Diseases (incl. HIV/Aids) - 1st attendance	3	105	45	54
Medical Oncology 1st attendance	5	40	19	23
Neurology - 1st attendance	0	153	65	77
Neurosurgery - 1st attendance	0	168	77	84
Ophthalmology - 1st attendance	0	243	35	122
Orthopaedics - 1st attendance	0	267	102	134
Paediatric Medical Outpatient - 1st attendance	0	248	60	124
Paediatric Surgery Outpatient - 1st attendance	3	123	37	63
Radiation Oncology 1st Attendance	1	57	28	29
Renal Medicine - 1st attendance	1	125	48	63
Respiratory - 1st attendance	3	163	64	83
Specialist Paediatric Cardiac - 1st Attendance	6	137	52	72
Specialist Paediatric Endocrinology - 1st attendance	1	174	61	88
Specialist Paediatric Neurology Outpatient 1st attendance	3	97	34	50
Specialist Paediatric Respiratory 1st attendance	0	136	60	68
Urology - 1st attendance	0	224	92	112
Vascular Surgery Outpatient - 1st attendance	3	202	81	103

Table 2 below summarises the number of days between the referral receipt date and the attendance date for a patient attending a publicly funded FSA during the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020. It has been split by specialty where the patients were recorded as being referred from a general practitioner and seen at Wellington Regional Hospital.

Table 2. Outpatients First Specialist Appointments 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020 (one year)

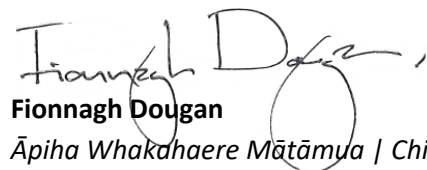
One Year	Minimum Number of Days	Maximum Number of Days	Average of Number of Days	Median of Number of Days
Cardiology - 1st attendance	1	263	60	132
Cardiothoracic - 1st attendance	7	140	44	74
Dermatology - 1st attendance	1	262	134	132
Diabetes - 1st attendance	2	179	60	91
Ear Nose and Throat - 1st attendance	0	261	50	131
Endocrinology - 1st attendance	1	210	88	106
Fracture Clinic - 1st attendance	0	226	9	113
Gastroenterology - 1st attendance	7	190	82	99
General Medicine - 1st attendance	0	270	90	135
General Surgery - 1st attendance	1	299	83	150
Gynaecology - 1st attendance	0	266	84	133
Haematology - 1st attendance	1	141	32	71
Immunology (excludes rheumatology) - 1st attendance	4	251	88	128
Infectious Diseases (incl. HIV/Aids) - 1st attendance	0	105	35	53
Medical Oncology 1st attendance	5	51	20	28
Neurology - 1st attendance	0	154	42	77
Neurosurgery - 1st attendance	0	211	72	106
Ophthalmology - 1st attendance	0	322	40	161
Orthopaedics - 1st attendance	0	277	92	139
Paediatric Medical Outpatient - 1st attendance	0	309	52	155
Paediatric Surgery Outpatient - 1st attendance	3	241	35	122
Radiation Oncology 1st Attendance	1	250	28	126
Renal Medicine - 1st attendance	1	125	38	63
Respiratory - 1st attendance	1	195	53	98
Specialist Paediatric Cardiac - 1st Attendance	2	137	47	70
Specialist Paediatric Endocrinology - 1st attendance	1	174	61	88
Specialist Paediatric Neurology Outpatient 1st attendance	3	97	37	50
Specialist Paediatric Respiratory 1st attendance	0	136	54	68
Urology - 1st attendance	0	250	93	125
Vascular Surgery Outpatient - 1st attendance	1	202	73	102

In relation to the results in the tables above, patients who either rescheduled their proposed visit to a later date – or failed to attend their first appointment and were rebooked and attended at a later date – have been excluded from the dataset.

Tables 1 and 2 include 47 patients (out of a total of 14,485 FSA patients over the year) who waited more than 240 days. The majority were COVID-related or relating to staff vacancy.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or you can free phone 0800 802 602.

Nāku ite noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fionnagh Dougan', is written over a circular stamp or watermark.

Fionnagh Dougan

Āpiha Whakahaere Mātāmua | Chief Executive