

31 May 2023

Pariket Dhabuwala
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Tēnā koe Pariket

Official information request HN200014860

Thank you for your email on 30 March 2023, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

How many cath labs are there in New Zealand in total (Public and Private)?

How many stents are being used for cardiac surgery per year in New Zealand in total (In public and private)?”

I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

How many cath labs are there in New Zealand in total (Public and Private)

Te Whatu Ora do not hold information on the national number of private cath labs. Please see the table below for the number of public cath labs, separated by region.

Northern	Northland	0
	Waitematā	2
	Auckland	5
	Counties Manukau	2
Te Manawa Taki	Waikato	1
	Lakes	0
	Bay of Plenty	2
	Tairāwhiti	0
	Taranaki	1
Central	Hawke's Bay	0
	MidCentral	0*
	Whanganui	0
	Capital & Coast / Hutt Valley	3
	Wairarapa	0
Te Wai Pounamu	Canterbury / West Coast	2
	South Canterbury	0
	Nelson Marlborough	1
	Southern	1

*A dedicated cardiac catheterization laboratory is due to open in Palmerston North in approximately November 2023.

How many stents are being used for cardiac surgery per year in New Zealand in total (In public and private)?

Cardiac surgeons do not routinely perform stenting procedures in New Zealand. A small number of hybrid procedures are performed by some surgeons, but actual numbers are not captured. Cardiologists predominantly insert stents in cath labs. I note that your request was for cardiac surgery insertions and not those that occur in cath labs.

I am able to advise the number of clinical codes and the number of distinct events recorded for the 2021 and 2022 years for stents as provided in table two.

Year	Number of Clinical Codes	Total Distinct Events
2021	6070	5966
2022	6147	6006

Source: National Minimum Dataset 4 May 2023

However, clinical coding does not always specify the number of stents used (for example, *Percutaneous insertion of >= 2 transluminal stents into multiple coronary arteries*) and therefore more than two stents may have been inserted when this code is used. In order to provide you with this information, Te Whatu Ora staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as it would require substantial collation and research.

I have considered whether the Te Whatu Ora would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, Te Whatu Ora's ability to undertake its other core functions would still be impacted.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Duncan Bliss

**Group Manager – Planned Care
Hospital and Specialist Services**