

8 August 2023

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Tēnā koe

### **Official information request HNZ00025533**

I refer to your follow up official information request dated 10 July 2023 regarding CT scans, clarifying whether our response to HNZ00021377 was a response from all of the Auckland metropolitan hospitals. Your original request and our updated response follows:

#### **Request:**

*Rumour has it that there was once an arrangement between Auckland Metro Hospitals and Auckland Zoo, for patients who were too large for the usual hospital CT scanners. This unique and creative solution for patient care is fascinating and I'd like to delve a little deeper into it.*

*Could you kindly assist me in understanding:*

*1. The specifics surrounding the Auckland Zoo arrangement, including:*

*1a. The dates that marked the beginning and conclusion of this arrangement.*

*1b. The number of patients who benefited from this arrangement during its tenure.*

*1c. The kind of health and safety protocols that were implemented to safeguard patient well-being and privacy during these scans at the zoo.*

*1d. Any policy changes, official reviews, or discussion records leading up to the discontinuation of this arrangement, assuming it is no longer active.*

*2. I'm also keen to learn about the current procedures that are in place for patients who are too large for standard hospital CT scanners:*

*2a. The specifics of these current procedures, including any partnerships or collaborations in place.*

*2b. The number of patients who have been accommodated via these alternative procedures since the discontinuation of the zoo arrangement.*

*2c. The health and safety protocols, ethical considerations, and privacy measures in place for these alternative solutions.*

*2d. Any challenges encountered in these current procedures and steps taken to mitigate them.*

*3. Lastly, if there are any discussions or plans to introduce new or improved procedures to accommodate such patients in the future, I'd love to learn about them.*

#### **Auckland Metro Region Response**

We apologise that the original response was not from the Auckland Metro Region.

1a-c Te Toka Tumai Auckland, Te Whatu Ora Waitematā and Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau are unable to fulfil your above requests under section 18(e) Official Information Act, the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

We do not have nor has there ever been an arrangement between Auckland Zoo and the Auckland metropolitan districts for patients who were too large for the usual hospital CT scanners.

**2. I'm also keen to learn about the current procedures that are in place for patients who are too large for standard hospital CT scanners:**

**2a. The specifics of these current procedures, including any partnerships or collaborations in place.**

**2b. The number of patients who have been accommodated via these alternative procedures since the discontinuation of the zoo arrangement.**

**2c. The health and safety protocols, ethical considerations, and privacy measures in place for these alternative solutions.**

**2d. Any challenges encountered in these current procedures and steps taken to mitigate them.**

The districts are unable to fulfill your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist. The districts have never had a case where a patient could not be scanned because of weight issue.

The current CT scanning capability can take patients up to 300kg weight, in the very rare situation where a patient could not be accommodated on the CT scanner, the clinical team and Radiologists would discuss other suitable imaging options.

**3. Lastly, if there are any discussions or plans to introduce new or improved procedures to accommodate such patients in the future, I'd love to learn about them.**

The districts have no plans to introduce new or improved procedures in the scenario provided, for the reasons stated above in response to Q2.

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nz.OIA@health.govt.nz](mailto:h.nz.OIA@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](http://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. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



**Dr Mike Shepherd**  
**Interim District Director | Hospital Specialist Services**  
**Te Toka Tumai Auckland**