



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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8 May 2018

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RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9112

I refer to your email dated 4 April 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB.

- **What is the DHB's total annual funding allocation for breast reconstruction?**

There is no specific budget allocation for breast reconstruction rather this would be part of the total allocation for surgery in general.

- **What advice does the DHB give to patients about the choice between delayed or immediate breast reconstruction/s?**

The West Coast DHB does not provide specific advice to patients referred for breast reconstruction surgery; this is provided by the team in Canterbury. The West Coast Cancer Nurse Coordinator provides patients with support for travel and/or accommodation arrangements as necessary and provides a copy of the Cancer Society information booklet which can also be found online at <https://cancernz.org.nz/assets/Cancer-information/Breast-cancer-booklet/CSNZ-Breast-Cancer-Booklet.pdf>

There is extensive information provided on the West Coast HealthInfo website under 'breast reconstruction' which can be found at: <https://www.healthinfo.org.nz/WestCoast/> this is information written by clinical advisers and is publically available.

There is also information provided on the West Coast HealthPathways website which is written for, and can be accessed by, General Practitioners and medical professionals.

- **Are patients required to use these services within a certain timeframe? Is so, when does this timeframe lapse?**
- **Are patients required to be of a certain age to access these services? If so, what is the age limit for breast reconstruction?**

I'm also looking for figures on the following:

- **What was the average wait time for patients getting a reconstruction surgery through the DHB services, each year, between 2014 - 2018?**

- **In total, how many patients received reconstruction surgery through the DHB, each year, between 2014 - 2018?**
- **In total, how many patients were declined reconstruction surgery through the DHB, each year, between 2014 - 2018?**
- **In total, how many patients were on a waiting list for a reconstruction through DHB services, each year, between 2014 - 2018?**

All breast reconstruction surgery is provided to West Coast DHB residents by Canterbury District Health Board and the answers to the above questions will be covered in their response to your Official Information Act request to them (CDHB 9825).

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
General Manager
Planning, Funding & Decision Support