

18 July 2019

Thank you for your request dated 19 June 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding bowel screening. You requested:

1. *“The number of colonoscopy referrals the DHB has declined each month for the last five years to date (May 2015 to May 2019).”*
2. *The number of colonoscopies performed at the DHB each month for the last five years to date (May 2015 to May 2019).*
3. *A copy of the DHB’s criteria to approve a colonoscopy referral.*
4. *The number of gastroenterology specialists employed by the DHB; broken down into fulltime and part-time employees.*
5. *The number of vacancies the DHB currently has available for gastroenterology specialists and how long each vacancy has been open for.*
6. *The amount each colonoscopy costs the DHB.*
7. *The number of colonoscopies the DHB has outsourced to the private sector each year for the last five years.*
8. *The amount of money the DHB has spent to outsource colonoscopies to the private sector each financial year for the last five financial years.*
9. *The amount of money the DHB has budgeted for colonoscopies against the amount of money spent for colposcopies (including those outsourced) for each financial year, for the last five years.”*

The information pertaining to your request is below.

Question 1

“The number of colonoscopy referrals the DHB has declined each month for the last five years to date (May 2015 to May 2019).”

Please see below table for the numbers of colonoscopy referrals declined each month over the last five years.

The reasons for decline of referral include:

- Assessment was not clinically required;
- Assessment was not clinically appropriate;
- The referral received had insufficient information;
- The patient was not eligible.

Month	Declined Total
May-15	4
Jun-15	13
Jul-15	14
Aug-15	13
Sep-15	14
Oct-15	8
Nov-15	13
Dec-15	10
Jan-16	11
Feb-16	13
Mar-16	9
Apr-16	4
May-16	7
Jun-16	11
Jul-16	4
Aug-16	10
Sep-16	10
Oct-16	4
Nov-16	4
Dec-16	3
Jan-17	10
Feb-17	4
Mar-17	3
Apr-17	0

Month	Declined Total
May-17	7
Jun-17	7
Jul-17	4
Aug-17	10
Sep-17	6
Oct-17	3
Nov-17	7
Dec-17	5
Jan-18	4
Feb-18	11
Mar-18	9
Apr-18	3
May-18	9
Jun-18	13
Jul-18	8
Aug-18	4
Sep-18	12
Oct-18	15
Nov-18	14
Dec-18	10
Jan-19	10
Feb-19	11
Mar-19	12
Apr-19	7

Question 2

Transferred to Ministry of Health, as advised in writing on 02 July 2019.

Question 3

Transferred to Ministry of Health, as advised in writing on 02 July 2019.

Question 4

“The number of gastroenterology specialists employed by the DHB; broken down into fulltime and part-time employees.”

Hutt Valley DHB (HVDHB) currently has 4 specialists employed; 2 full time and 2 part time.

Question 5

“The number of vacancies the DHB currently has available for gastroenterology specialists and how long each vacancy has been open for. “

HVDHB has no budgeted vacancies but we are recruiting for an additional gastroenterologist to support increased demand. This advertisement has been on place for around 6 weeks.

Question 6

Transferred to Ministry of Health, as advised in writing on 02 July 2019.

Question 7

“The number of colonoscopies the DHB has outsourced to the private sector each year for the last five years.”

Outsourced colonoscopies	18/19	17/18	16/17	15/16	14/15
	190	12	0	3	1

Question 8

“The amount of money the DHB has spent to outsource colonoscopies to the private sector each financial year for the last five financial years.”

Outsourced colonoscopies	18/19	17/18	16/17	15/16	14/15
	\$242,745	\$15,119	\$0	\$3,721	\$1,200

Question 9

“The amount of money the DHB has budgeted for colonoscopies against the amount of money spent for colposcopies (including those outsourced) for each financial year, for the last five years.”

HVDHB does not budget specifically for individual colonoscopies. We budget for the Endoscopy service as a whole.