

26 August 2019

Thank you for your request received on 5 August 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982. You requested:

- 1 *“How many new patients from the Wairarapa are currently on the waiting list for a first appointment at the Gastroenterology clinic?”*
- 2 *What is the current appointment wait time for new Wairarapa gastroenterology patients between Hutt Hospital receiving a referral and them being seen at the gastroenterology clinic?*
- 3 *How many existing gastroenterology patients from the Wairarapa do you currently have on follow up appointments?*
- 4 *What is the total number, excluding Wairarapa patients, of current Gastroenterology patients?*
- 5 *What is the total number, excluding Wairarapa patients, of existing patients do you currently have on follow up?*
- 6 *How many Gastroenterologists are employed by Hutt Hospital?*
- 8 *Hutt Valley DHB gave notice to discontinue providing Gastroenterology services at Wairarapa Hospital from May this year. Given that the reason cited was that it’s local procedure waiting list had grown exponentially since the roll out of the National Bowel Screening Project, are Hutt Valley DHB able to guarantee that it has the resources to continue seeing patients from the Wairarapa and that they will be given equal priority to Hutt Valley patients?”*

The information pertaining to your request is below.

Question 1:

“How many new patients from the Wairarapa are currently on the waiting list for a first appointment at the Gastroenterology clinic?”

As at Thursday the 15th of August 2018 we have three Wairarapa patients on the waiting list.

Question 2:

“What is the current appointment wait time for new Wairarapa gastroenterology patients between Hutt Hospital receiving a referral and them being seen at the gastroenterology clinic?”

The current wait time for new referrals is three to four months

Question 3:

“How many existing gastroenterology patients from the Wairarapa do you currently have on follow up appointments?”

As at Thursday the 15th of August 2018 we have 36 Wairarapa patients booked for follow up.

Question 4:

“What is the total number, excluding Wairarapa patients, of current Gastroenterology patients?”

As at Thursday the 15th of August 2018 we have 951 patients with addresses outside of the Wairarapa region.

Question 5:

“What is the total number, excluding Wairarapa patients, of existing patients do you currently have on follow up?”

As at Thursday the 15th of August 2018 we have 915 patients with addresses outside of the Wairarapa region, for follow up.

Question 6:

“How many Gastroenterologists are employed by Hutt Hospital?”

We have three permanent Gastroenterologists currently, with a fourth due to start in December.

Question 8:

“Hutt Valley DHB gave notice to discontinue providing Gastroenterology services at Wairarapa Hospital from May this year. Given that the reason cited was that it’s local procedure waiting list had grown exponentially since the roll out of the National Bowel Screening Project, are Hutt Valley DHB able to guarantee that it has the resources to continue seeing patients from the Wairarapa and that they will be given equal priority to Hutt Valley patients?”

If a patient is referred to Hutt Valley DHB for a service not provided at Wairarapa DHB, the patient will be given equal priority and treatment.