

13 February 2019

Thank you for your request received on 14 January 2019 via the Ministry of Health requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982. You requested:

*“Written documents, reports, memos, letters, notes and emails - specifically relating to the following matters:*

- *Number and location of PET (positron emission tomography) and PET-CT (positron emission tomography-computed tomography) scanning machines in NZ*
- *Current working condition of each of these machines - for example whether they are in top working condition, in need of upgrade/refurbishment, or broken*
- *The timeline and anticipated cost for the repair or replacement of any PET or PETCT machines which are currently broken or in need of upgrade/refurbishment*
- *Current patient waiting times for PET and PET-CT scans, with these figures broken down by DHB and reason for scan (ie breast cancer detection, prostate cancer detection etc)*
- *Forecast patient waiting times for PET and PET-CT scans over the next six months, with these figures broken down by DHB and reason for scan (ie breast cancer detection, prostate cancer detection etc)*

*I would like information on the above, for the timeframe of the last 12 months up to - and including - the most current data.”*

The information pertaining to your request is below.

**Question One:**

*“Number and location of PET (positron emission tomography) and PET-CT (positron emission tomography-computed tomography) scanning machines in NZ”*

HVDHB does not hold the answer to this question.

**Question Two:**

*“Current working condition of each of these machines - for example whether they are in top working condition, in need of upgrade/refurbishment, or broken”*

Pacific Radiology provides this service on behalf of HVDHB. Their response to this question is: Our new Siemens PET-CT scanner at our Bowen Hospital branch in Wellington was installed in August 2017. There are no equipment performance issues.

**Question Three:**

*“The timeline and anticipated cost for the repair or replacement of any PET or PETCT machines which are currently broken or in need of upgrade/refurbishment”*

Pacific Radiology provides this service on behalf of HVDHB. Their response to this question is: Near new machine. Scheduled maintenance by Siemens does not affect patient throughput.

**Question Four:**

*“Current patient waiting times for PET and PET-CT scans, with these figures broken down by DHB and reason for scan (ie breast cancer detection, prostate cancer detection etc)”*

Pacific Radiology provides this service on behalf of HVDHB. Their response to this question is: Majority of FDG PET-CT scans are performed within 7 days of referral being received from the DHB. PSMA PET-CT scans for prostate cancer are not routinely funded by DHBs. Some patients receive DHB funding when approved by a variance committee. These scans are usually performed within 14 days.

FET PET-CT scans for brain cancer are DHB-funded. These scans are usually planned well ahead of time and accommodated within 14-21 days, in consultation with clinical teams.

For the Hutt in the next 6 months we would expect approximately 150 requests for PETs of which a third will be from Plastics a third from Respiratory and a third from Surgical/Breast.

**Question Five:**

*“Forecast patient waiting times for PET and PET-CT scans over the next six months, with these figures broken down by DHB and reason for scan (ie breast cancer detection, prostate cancer detection etc)”*

Pacific Radiology provides this service on behalf of HVDHB. Their response to this question is: These waiting times are consistent over the DHBs who utilize our service. These waiting times are expected to remain the same in the coming 6 months.