

24 March 2023

Kellye Foster
fyi-request-21858-8442e382@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Kellye

Your request for Official Information, reference: HNZ00012265

Thank you for your email on 24 February 2023, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have specifically requested:

“I am requesting the official data for publicly funded bariatric surgery for the past 5yrs and the data that suggests that remission of type 2 diabetes has been successful. How many of these patients have now had additional diabetes treatment. Why was it confirmed by health nz that publicly funded bariatric surgery would only be given to those with diabetes. I am a long suffering obese person whom has severe limitations due to severe arthritis which would be drastically reduced by surgery and I could enjoy my 8 children. However declined 4 times now I don't drink smoke or eat unhealthy I have tried every possible weightloss why does ministry of health not see the real endemic issues Why is prevention of diabetes not a priority with the endemic obesity problems in New Zealand Why are we lagging behind in treatment against Australia UK and USA”

Please see Table 1 below that outlines publicly funded bariatric surgery for the past 5 years, released to you in full. However, please note the data only reflects the number of publicly funded bariatric procedures. Te Whatu Ora does not collate data on the ongoing status of patients who have type 2 diabetes following bariatric surgery.

Table 1: The number of procedures for obesity over the last 5 years

Financial Year	Number of patients*
2018/19	611
2019/20	484
2020/21	548
2021/22	356
2022/23	225
Grand Total	2224

The following information has been extracted from the National Minimum Dataset on 1 March 2023.

In addition, please note:

- Information regarding additional diabetes treatment is not recorded centrally. Each patient record would need to be reviewed by a clinician to determine whether diabetes treatment had been initiated. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

- Bariatric surgery is not offered to just those with diabetes, clinical assessment will also determine whether bariatric surgery is appropriate in individual cases. Decisions on who receives publicly funded bariatric surgery are made according to a nationwide and consistent clinical prioritisation criteria – the National Bariatric Surgery Prioritisation Tool. This tool was developed by clinicians who are involved in the care of the bariatric patients and is aimed at choosing those most likely to benefit metabolically from the surgery.
- A number of parameters including health conditions and lifestyle effects are considered as part of the assessment and prioritisation process, these issues are considered in parallel to likelihood to benefit from surgery and also surgical risk to that individual. A combination of these factors inform whether a patient is considered for surgery. We would encourage you to discuss this matter with your General Practitioner who is best placed to explain and provide alternative options.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@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 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.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Fionnagh Dougan
National Director
Hospital and Specialist Services