

02 November 2021

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**Re Official Information Request for Use of blockers**

I refer to your official information request dated 08 September 2021 and transferred to us by the Ministry of Health on 13 October 2021 for the following information:

**Information relating to the use of blockers for young either trans related or increase in central precocious puberty. Please provide the figures divided into these 2 separate categories.**

**Please break down as to**

- 1. numbers,**
- 2. ages,**
- 3. birth sex**
- 4. ethnicity**

**for all people under the age of 20 enrolled in gender clinics - including by DHB over last 5 years.**

**Please also advise how many of the above have gone on to be prescribed cross sex hormones and/or gone on to have transition surgery or be placed on the surgery waiting list.**

## **Response**

The information you have requested is placed on individual patient files and it is not collected and collated into a data set by Auckland DHB as a normal part of its patient information record keeping.

The information you seek is not collected and collated into a data set by Auckland DHB as a normal part of its patient information record keeping. While that information will be held on individual patient files, approximately 400 individuals have been seen for gender affirming healthcare over the past five years at Auckland DHB. A relatively small number will have been prescribed blockers; the only way to determine the exact number would be to examine each medical file.

Due to the sensitivity of this information clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Official Information Act (OIA) s9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of individuals and s18(f) of the OIA - substantial collation and research.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
**Chief Executive**