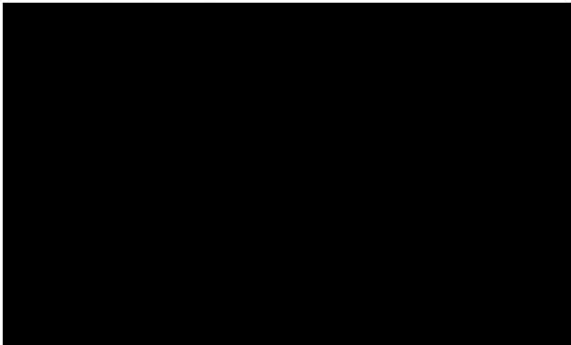


28 April 2021

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**Re: Official Information Act request – Surgery delay - PICU**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 9 April 2021, requesting the following information:

**How many surgeries have had to be delayed this year, and last year, because of a shortage of PICU beds?**

Clarification on 13 April 2020

- 1. How many surgeries have had to be delayed this year, and last year, because of a shortage of PICU beds?**
- 2. How many of these surgeries were delayed more than once?**
- 3. What was the most delayed surgery - ie how many times was it delayed?**
- 4. What was the average length of time for surgery delays and the longest delay?**

At times, surgeries do need to be rescheduled and some patients may not receive surgery as promptly as they, their whānau or we would like. This is due to a number of factors but it is always informed by the clinical need of all our patients. The categorisation of delays does not reflect all of the nuances of that clinical decision making.

1. Six patients had surgeries delayed in 2020 because of a shortage of PICU beds. Six patients have had surgeries delayed in 2021 (as of 13 April 2021) due to a shortage of PICU beds.
2. Two of these twelve patients had their surgeries delayed more than once.
3. The most delays a patient experienced was two delays before receiving their surgery. In cases when an inpatient experiences a delay of more than one day during an admission, the multi-day delay is accounted for once.
4. The average length of delay for patients whose surgery was delayed was approximately 14.5 days. However, the median delay is five days with a range of one to sixty-four days. The longest delay for a patient before they received their surgery was sixty-four days.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. 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 of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)**