

4 December 2024

Bob McCoskrie
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Tēnā koe Bob

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00070797

Thank you for your request received by Health New Zealand on 7 November 2024, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

According to your website update

<https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/health-services-and-programmes/providing-health-services-for-transgender-people/updates-from-the-gender-affirming-genital-surgery-service> it says:

As at 30 September 2024, there were 326 people on the active wait list for their first specialist assessment (FSA) as part of the Gender Affirming (Genital) Surgery Service (the Service). Of those 326 people, 101 have had an FSA. Seven surgeries have been performed so far in 2024 with one surgery planned for October.

Could you please provide

- *a breakdown of the 326 people on the active wait list as to biological sex, ages, & location*
- *a breakdown of the 101 people who have had an FSA as to biological sex, ages, & location, and type of genital surgery performed*
- *a breakdown of the eight surgeries performed and to be performed in 2024 as to biological sex, age, and type of genital surgery performed.*
- *a breakdown of the surgeries performed over each of the previous five years as to biological sex, age, and type of genital surgery performed.*
- *What has been the cost of the Gender affirming (genital) surgery service for each of the past 10 years*
- *What amount of this cost has been spent on mental health assessment / psychiatric support / counselling etc.*

Response

Please note that as a result of the potential to identify patients on the waiting list, your request for the location of patients is declined under 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. In addition, to determine the gender assigned at birth of each patient it would be necessary to review each individual patient file. Consequently, under section 18(f) of the Act, due to substantial collation or research, we are unable to provide this information.

However, to provide a response with some detail, I can advise the following:

a breakdown of the 326 people on the active wait list as to biological sex, ages, & location.

Of the 326 patients on the waiting list, 243 have requested a feminising procedure and 83 a masculinising procedure. Therefore, it can be assumed of the sex assigned at birth of these patients 243 were assigned male at birth and 83 assigned female at birth. Age ranges of the 326 patients are:

Age Range	Number
18-25	94
26-35	148
36-45	51
46-55	22
>55	11

a breakdown of the 101 people who have had an FSA as to biological sex, ages, & location, and type of genital surgery performed

We have sought to verify the stated 101 patients who have received an FSA as listed in order to provide a response to you and have identified there are discrepancies as to how that number has been historically determined. This is a result of how previous volumes were calculated and how a patient's status has been recorded. Consequently, verification of the stated 101 patients who have received an FSA would require extensive research into patient files. Noting this, we will be amending the details on our website. Work is under way to do this.

I am able to advise that reviewing the recorded status of the 326 patients and counting the allocated values of those patients under the designation 'Attended FSA', 'Pre-Surgery Work Up', 'Ready for Surgery', 'Had Surgery' and 'On Hold' 32 patients have received an FSA, 17 of these patients have requested feminising procedures and 15 masculinising.

The age ranges of the 32 patients are:

Age Range	Number
18-25	<5
26-35	17
36-45	6
46-55	<5
>55	<5

Health NZ is unable to provide you with all numbers specific to each age range. We have decided to withhold some of this information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Where the number of individuals is less than five, Health New Zealand must avoid revealing sensitive information about potentially identifiable individuals in our data. Where information is withheld under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

a breakdown of the eight surgeries performed and to be performed in 2024 as to biological sex, age, and type of genital surgery performed.

Due to the low volume of patients in this cohort this request is declined under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

a breakdown of the surgeries performed over each of the previous five years as to biological sex, age, and type of genital surgery performed.

Due to the low volume of patients in each of these cohorts this request is declined under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. However, I can advise the number of procedures performed in the years 2020 to 2024 by year/in total only. Where the number of individuals is less than five, Health New Zealand must avoid revealing sensitive information about

potentially identifiable individuals in our data. It should be noted that patients may require more than one procedure before the completion of an affirming surgery; therefore, the table below is not indicative of the number of patients who have completed treatment:

Procedures	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Vaginoplasty	<5	7	9	8	7
Metoidioplasty	<5	<5	0	<5	<5
Phalloplasty	0	0	<5	<5	<5

What has been the cost of the Gender affirming (genital) surgery service for each of the past 10 years

Historically genital reconstructive surgery was funded by the Ministry of Health under the High-Cost Treatment Pool and not identified as a specific service, therefore funding prior to the establishment of the Gender Affirming (genital) Surgery (GAgS) Service in 2020 is not available.

Since 2020 the service has been publicly funded to deliver up to 14 gender affirming genital surgeries (either feminising or masculinising) per year as indicated in the table below:

Financial Year	Funding
2020-21	\$1.22m
2021-22	\$1.22m
2022-23	\$1.22m
2023-24	\$1.05m
2024-25	\$1.07m

What amount of this cost has been spent on mental health assessment / psychiatric support / counselling etc.

To determine the financial aspect of mental health assessment, psychiatric support and counselling for these procedures it would be necessary to review each individual patient file and then ascertain which components relate to your request. Consequently, under section 18(f) of the Act, due to substantial collation or research, we are unable to provide this information.

How to get in touch

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



Mary Cleary-Lyons
Director National Clinical Networks
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer