



Dear 

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received by Canberra Health Services (CHS) on **Thursday 15 Feb 2024**.

This application requested access to:

- *'Latest elective surgery waitlist figures, if possible dissected by speciality, category and procedure.'*
- *'Any recent projections or briefings about the impact of changes, such as the completion of the Critical Services Building or measures to increase endoscopy throughputs, on elective surgery waitlists.'*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of Canberra Health Services (CHS) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. CHS was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Tuesday 02 April 2024**.

I have identified one document holding the information within scope of your access application. This document relates to the first point of the request.

No documents are held regarding any projections or briefings about the impacts of changes in relation to the latest elective surgery waitlist figures. Therefore, I have determined that CHS does not hold information relevant to the second point of the scope in accordance with section 35(1)(b) of the FOI Act.

Decisions

I have decided to grant full access to one document. The documents released to you are provided as Attachment A to this letter.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, CHS maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log>.

Ombudsman review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in ACT Health's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: ombudsman.act.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review


Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Allara House
15 Constitution Avenue
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Further assistance

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email HealthFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely


Grant Howard
Chief Operating Officer
Canberra Health Services

28 March 2024

ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITLIST - READY FOR CARE (RFC)

PLANNED CARE - ELECTIVE SURGERY- CANBERRA HEALTH SERVICES
INPATIENT WAITING LIST - REPORTING READY FOR CARE
 DATA SOURCE: Elective Surgery Waiting List
 REPORT DATE: 3 March 2024, Series 1

Location	Priority	Speciality	Total RFC	Total Overdue RFC	% Overdue RFC	Total Not RFC
CANBERRA HEALTH SERVICE	CATEGORY 1 < 30 Days	Cardiothoracic Surgery	19	0	0%	1
		General Surgery	39	2	5%	7
		Gynaecological Oncology	4	1	25%	0
		Gynaecology	45	6	13%	4
		Neurosurgery	8	0	0%	1
		Ophthalmology	10	3	30%	1
		Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery	16	8	50%	7
		Orthopaedic Surgery	4	1	25%	6
		Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery	12	0	0%	0
		Paediatric Surgery	5	0	0%	3
		Plastic Surgery	78	11	14%	18
		Urology	235	89	38%	123
		Vascular Surgery	101	24	24%	29
		Grand Total		576	145	25%

Location	Priority	Speciality	Total RFC	Total Overdue RFC	% Overdue RFC	Total Not RFC
CANBERRA HEALTH SERVICE	CATEGORY 2 < 90 Days	Cardiothoracic Surgery	1	0	0%	1
		General Surgery	255	106	42%	22
		Gynaecological Oncology	5	0	0%	0
		Gynaecology	379	183	48%	18
		Neurosurgery	74	36	49%	7
		Ophthalmology	81	25	31%	12
		Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery	116	57	49%	21
		Orthopaedic Surgery	494	314	64%	48
		Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery	124	69	56%	7
		Paediatric Surgery	89	14	16%	9
		Plastic Surgery	182	129	71%	8
		Urology	191	86	45%	128
		Vascular Surgery	56	31	55%	5
		Grand Total		2047	1050	51%

Location	Priority	Speciality	Total RFC	Total Overdue RFC	% Overdue RFC	Total Not RFC
CANBERRA HEALTH SERVICE	CATEGORY 3 < 365 Days	Cardiothoracic Surgery	3	0	0%	0
		General Surgery	571	46	8%	31
		Gynaecological Oncology	1	0	0%	0
		Gynaecology	199	37	19%	13
		Neurosurgery	172	20	12%	7
		Ophthalmology	1044	81	8%	550
		Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery	133	42	32%	4
		Orthopaedic Surgery	1564	364	23%	88
		Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery	923	376	41%	9
		Paediatric Surgery	42	0	0%	10
		Plastic Surgery	131	66	50%	4
		Urology	112	23	21%	27
		Vascular Surgery	102	39	38%	4
		Grand Total		4997	1094	22%

	Total RFC	Total Overdue RFC	% Overdue RFC	Total Not RFC
CANBERRA HEALTH SERVICES ELECTIVE SURGERY	7620	2289	30%	1233

Notes:

National Elective Surgery Urgency Category Guidelines:

Category 1: Procedures that are clinically indicated within 30 days

Category 2: Procedures that are clinically indicated within 90 days

Category 3: Procedures that are clinically indicated within 365 days

Report:

Frequency: fortnightly, Sunday

Ready for Care (RFC): patients on the waitlist who are ready for surgery.

Not Ready for Care (RFC): patients on the waitlist who are not ready for admission to hospital for surgery. This can be due to clinical or personal reasons.

Overdue: number and percentage of cases on the waitlist that are reporting as waiting longer than the clinically recommended time for surgery, according to the assigned urgency category.

Considerations:

1. Dashboard is for Canberra Health Service operational reporting
2. Canberra Health Services is reviewing waitlist data
3. Data may over report 'overdue' patients as total days waiting may be reported, for example, when a recategorisation occurs to a higher category (e.g. category 2 to category 1).
4. Private Provider Program Contracted Care waitlist entries are removed by Territory Wide Surgical Services when care is completed in the private sector. Patients may have had elective surgery under the Private Provider Program and waitlist entry remains in the exported data, therefore total number waiting will be lower than reported.