

Our reference: CHSFOI23-24.37



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 Your personal contact details will not be published.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

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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.