

Our reference: **CHSFOI23-24.52**

### 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 **Monday 29 April 2024**.

This application requested access to:

*'The latest wait list figures for endoscopies, if possible, dissected by type of procedure, urgency category, numbers overdue and average or median wait times, etc.'*

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 **Wednesday 12 June 2024**.

The information within the scope of your access application has been extracted for the purpose of your request and captures information sourced from the ACT Health public health system only, as we do not hold data for all of ACT.

#### **Decisions on access**

I have decided to grant full access to the information provided below.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons. 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; and
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

#### **Full Access**

As of 31 March 2024:

- There were 1000 Category 1 orders and of these, 786 orders were in breach of their clinically recommended timeframe (30 days); a reduction from 3196 on 1 May 2023.
- There were 2244 active Category 2 orders and of these, 2016 were in breach of their clinically recommended timeframe (90 days); a reduction from 2047 on 1 May 2023. This limited reduction is due to prioritising highest category, longest wait patients.

- There were 634 active Category 3 orders and of these 447 were in breach of their clinically recommended timeframe (365 days).

Note that these are procedure orders when the patient has already been seen in clinic and is waiting for a procedure.

### **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](mailto:ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au)  
Website: [ombudsman.act.gov.au](http://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](mailto:HealthFOI@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Howard', written in a cursive style.

Dr Grant Howard  
**Chief Operating Officer**  
Canberra Health Services

12 June 2024