



24 March 2022

Subject: Official Information Act request re: Theatre times

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act received by Lakes DHB on 25 February 2022.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may help to provide some context about theatres available in the Lakes District. Acute services are provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and range from minor injuries/illness to major trauma. Elective services are provided five days per week and incorporate patient care, inpatient, day patient, and outpatient environments.

- 1. How many hours per week, on average, are operating theatres undertaking elective planned care and acute procedures, listed elective theatre procedures, acute theatre procedures, and both of these two individually as proportions of overall theatre availability?***

At Rotorua Hospital, there are six operating rooms in the theatre suite in which we plan procedures at 100% of staffed theatre hours. At Taupō Hospital there is one operating theatre room which is utilised at 75% due to staffing (six lists instead of eight lists a week).

Rotorua Hospital			
1	Acute Theatre	Acute Time from 0800 to 2300 hr seven days a week and on-call after hours for life and limb events.	100%
2	Endoscopy Room	0800 – 1700 hr on Monday to Friday for endoscopy procedures.	100%
3	Elective Theatre	0800 – 1700 hr on Monday to Friday for elective procedures.	100%
4	Elective Theatre	0800 – 1700 hr on Monday to Friday for elective procedures.	100%
5	Elective Theatre	0800 – 1700 hr on Monday to Friday for elective procedures.	100%
6	Elective Theatre	0800 – 1700 hr on Monday to Friday for elective procedures.	100%
Taupō Hospital			
1	Elective Theatre	0800 – 1700 hr on Monday to Friday for day case surgeries or endoscopy sessions.	75%

Southern Cross Hospital Rotorua as a local private provider conducts a small volume of work dependent on increased volumes each year. Relationships between the public and private sector are sound. Southern Cross Hospital Rotorua does not have HDU or ICU capacity and hence is unable to

take high risk patients determined by anaesthetic and surgical risk. Equally this applies to standard private patients hence a higher rate of any private patients are referred to the public hospital in the first instance.

For each procedure hours a week, the information is unavailable.

2. *What percentage of overall available theatre time is currently not used and potentially available for elective planned care procedures listed as a percentage of overall available theatre time?*

Lakes DHB utilises all theatres available with improved theatre productivity through the use of Theatre business guidelines and with close management by Surgical Services Management.

In 2020/21 the elective theatre utilisation rate was 98.2%. We have had a number of initiatives to maintain the high utilisation rate of theatre time including but not restricted to Day of Surgery Admission rates of 99%, reduced bed utilisation through reductions in beds occupied by acute patients who can be appropriately managed as Acute Arranged patients rather than occupying a bed when a surgical delay is appropriate, and focusing on start and finish time of theatres.

Taupō Hospital has been staffed for six lists out of eight lists a week due to staff vacancies in 2021, however, this has been filled as of March 2022 therefore we are able to provide 100% of the staffed time.