

27 September 2019

Belinda Hodson

By email: [fyi-request-11166-78797649@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11166-78797649@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Belinda

**Re: Official Information Act request – Thyroid diagnosis/policy**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 8 September 2019 requesting the following information:

**As at 31st March 2019, please provide:**

- 1. Guidelines and/or policy on thyroid diagnosis, testing and treatment issued/used/supported by the District health Board; plus**
  - (a) The citation list (NZ and international clinical research studies, other clinical papers and publications including randomised control trials and guidelines) that support these guidelines/policy. Citations are to include those on safety, benefits, efficacy, risk, and risk management; AND**
  - (b) The citation list of all patient survey data that supports these guidelines/policy.**
- 2. From the period 1 January 1990 through to 31 March 2019, all studies carried out by the District Health Board (DHB), referred to or sourced by the DHB (NZ or international studies) that:**
  - (a) Monitor the impact of guidelines/policies on thyroid diagnosis, testing and treatment on the health and wellbeing of NZ thyroid patients; and**
  - (b) All studies examining thyroid patients' experience of diagnosis and treatment.**

Auckland DHB does not have guidelines or policies on thyroid diagnosis, testing and treatment, therefore your request is declined under section 18(e) as the document does not exist. Thyroid diagnosis relies on clinician's clinical judgement based on individual clinical expertise, best available research evidence and patient unique considerations.

Accordingly, your request for information under questions 1(a), 1(b) and 2(a) are declined as the guidelines do not exist.

In relation to question 2(b), the request in its current form is too broad to ascertain what information is required. If it is helpful we are happy to arrange a conversation with an experienced Endocrinologist to help you to refine your request. Please contact Jennie Montague General Manager, Adult Community and Long Term Conditions Directorate at [jenniem@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:jenniem@adhb.govt.nz)

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive