



Southern District Health Board
Dunedin Hospital
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Chief Executive Officer
Phone 03-476 9456 Fax 03-476 9450

21 May 2020

Ms Amy Van Wey Lovatt
By Email: fyi-request-12108-26ab0a13@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref 1945

Dear Ms Van Wey Lovatt

Official Information Act Request

I refer to your Official Information Act request, partially transferred to us from the Ministry of Health on 1 May 2020, in which you specifically requested the following information:

The MoH Operational Policy Framework 2019/20, available through Nationwide Service Framework Library <<https://nsfl.health.govt.nz>>, states under section 7.5.2 "Regions should ensure that clear referral pathways are in place and known to all clinicians." Given that every DHB must "ensure that clear referral pathways are in place and known to all clinicians", clearly such policies must exist. Thus, I request, under section 13 and 14 of the OIA that you please assist me in obtaining these policies.

There is no specific policy regarding referrals into Southern DHB but we are confident that the pathways are consistent with all DHB's and are clear and known to all clinicians. Referrals are made in written form, either paper or electronically into Southern DHB where they are triaged and prioritised.

The issue that is raised is not related to the referral process, which has been undertaken correctly. The issue relates to the process for treating patients outside of their usual domicile. Southern DHB is required to provide healthcare for those living within their region. Any requests to treat patients from outside of the region must come from the hospital to ensure that the necessary transfer of cost occurs between the DHB's and this cannot be achieved through a GP referral.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Office can be contacted on 0800 802 602 or on-line at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>.

Yours sincerely

Chris Fleming
Chief Executive Officer