

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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15 May 2020

MS Amy S Van Wey Lovatt

Email: [fyi-request-12518-5db0b136@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12518-5db0b136@requests.fyi.org.nz); [fyi-request-12503-3e300133@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12503-3e300133@requests.fyi.org.nz);

Dear Ms Van Wey Lovatt

### RE Official information request CDHB 10293 and WCDHB 9411

We refer to your email dated 22 March 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB.

**Please note:** West Coast DHB sends tissue samples to the Canterbury DHB Anatomical Pathology department for processing and examination. Our response therefore covers both DHBs.

**The Royal College of Pathologists Australasia has a policy titled "Provision of second opinions with particular reference to morphological examination", which addresses the best practice with regards to referral for second and subsequent opinion of pathology specimens.**

1. **I respectfully request your DHB's policy on second opinions requested by a third party who is a medical practitioner currently involved in the medical care of the patient from whom the pathological material was originally obtained.**

The Anatomical Pathology department of Canterbury DHB applies the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) policy to their practices.

2. **In the event that your DHB deviates from the aforementioned RCPA policy, I request an explanation for why your DHB deviates from best practice.**

See above.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB websites after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**