



MIDCENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Te Pae Hauora o Ruahine o Tararua

22 June 2020

MidCentral District
Health Board
Phone (06) 350 8061
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Ms Van Wey Lovatt

Email - fyi-request-12522-0aa1f97b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Postal Address:
PO Box 2056
Palmerston North Central
Palmerston North 4440
New Zealand

Dear Ms Van Wey Lovatt

Physical Address:
Gate 2B
Heretaunga Street
Palmerston North
New Zealand

Official Information Act (OIA) Request IA Y20-568 MDHB's best practice protocol for archiving, storage, or biobanking of human tissue for diagnostic purposes

Your Official Information Act request on 17 June 2020 in response to our decision on your request of 22 March 2020 is acknowledged and was passed on to me for a response.

You have challenged our decision to refuse your request under section 18 (e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information requested does not exist. In response, I am pleased to provide you with the following information:

With respect to your first question, neither MidCentral DHB nor its contractor MedLab Central Limited have specific best practice protocols for archiving, storage, or biobanking of human tissue for diagnostic purposes, whether they are formalin fixed, paraffin embedded or pathology slides. The laboratories policies around storage of human tissues are based on the NPACC guidelines, in particular Table 2: [https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/B8562E2C3D131ED8CA257BF00019153C/\\$File/20180612%20-%20Final%20-%20Retention.pdf](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/B8562E2C3D131ED8CA257BF00019153C/$File/20180612%20-%20Final%20-%20Retention.pdf)

With respect to your second question, MedLab Central advises that its custom and practice is based on best practice and is consistent with ISO 15189:2012 Medical laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence and the NPACC standard, and are accredited by IANZ against this Standard.

MidCentral DHB is not aware of the practice at other DHBs and so is unable to comment on whether arrangements are typical.

In response to your third question, MedLab Central advise that given their laboratory practice of only current specimens being kept on the workbench the issue does not arise. MedLab Central and the DHB therefore have no comment.

With respect to your fourth question, as previously stated, the laboratory services provided by MedLab Central are accredited by IANZ.

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/>

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the MidCentral DHB website ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johnston', written in a cursive style.

Craig Johnston
General Manager Strategy, Planning and Performance