

6 April 2020

Ms Amy S Van Wey Lovatt
By Email: fyi-request-12513-bebebda4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref 1926

Dear Ms Van Wey Lovatt

Official Information Act Request

I refer to your Official Information Act request received 23 March 2020, in which you specifically requested the following information.

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.

We are unable to provide you an opinion on this matter as Southern Community Laboratories are the contracted service to the Southern District Health Board.

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. Please note, my request does not reflect the standard of care provided at your DHB, but is to ascertain whether there is consistent adherence to RCPA best practice amongst all NZ DHBs.

Southern Community Laboratories, who employ the pathologists that are contracted to Southern District Health Board, have their own processes which they will follow relating RCPA policy.

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