

16 June 2020

Ms Amy S Van Wey Lovatt
By Email: fyi-request-12513-bebebd4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Van Wey Lovatt

Re: Official Information Act Request 1958

I refer to your Official Information Act request received 26 May 2020, in which you specifically requested the following information.

Even if your DHB contracts out pathology services, third party health practitioners would make requests directly to your DHB for pathology specimens as the DHB ultimately responsible for the tissue. Thus, to clarify:

Request 1: Does this mean your DHB has adopted the RCPA policy, which is the professional standard, for such requests given there is no written policy?

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

Request 2: If not, I respectfully request a description of your DHB's standard practice regarding such requests and in the event that your DHB's standard practice is NOT consistent with the RCPA policy, then an explanation for the deviation from the professional standards.

As noted, Southern Community Laboratories are the contracted service to Southern District Health Board.

Request 3: If your standard practice is to forward requests to the contracting agency, then I respectfully request that your DHB forward my OIA request to the appropriate agency, pursuant to section 14 of the OIA. To avoid any misunderstanding, when I refer to policy, I would also include any standard practice, written or unwritten,

Southern Community Laboratories is a non-government organisation, therefore are exempt from the Official Information Act.

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