

10 August 2020

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

Dear Ms Van Wey Lovatt

Re: Official Information Act Request

I refer to your Official Information Act request received 26 May 2020 and your follow up email, dated 29 May 2020, in which you specifically requested the following:

I was very confused by your response. 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?

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.

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.

Thank you for your enquiry. The Southern District Health Board contracts Southern Community Laboratories (SCL) for these services. Our provider's response to your two requests are below;

Request 1:

SCL follows the RCPA Policy 2/1999 for the 'Provision of second opinions with reference to morphological examination'. In summary we would comply with any request for second opinion – either to provide slides from our files for the review by another pathologist, or by providing a second opinion review itself if a request is made to us.

Request 2:

SCL does not deviate from the RCPA Policy 2/1999 for the 'Provision of second opinions with reference to morphological examination'.

Request 3:

The responses to Requests 1 and 2 are provided by the contracting agency and should therefore satisfy the requirement to forward your previous OIA request (1926).

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Fleming', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Chris Fleming
Chief Executive Officer

Ref 1958