



Planning and Funding
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23 March 2020

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt

Email: fyi-request-12518-5db0b136@requests.fyi.org.nz; fyi-request-12503-3e300133@requests.fyi.org.nz;

Dear Amy

RE Official information request CDHB 10293 and WCDHB 9411

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

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.**
- 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.**

We will consider your request against the provisions of the Official Information Act (see below) and advise you of our decision regarding the release of information within 20 working days (being the statutory timeframe provided within the Act.) Accordingly, we will notify you, no later than 23 April 2020, of our decision. (Note this takes into account public holidays for Good Friday and Easter Monday).

It should be noted that many key staff involved with the sourcing and preparation of material for your request are also directly involved with work associated with COVID-19. This may impact on our ability to respond to certain OIA requests within normal time frames.

Your request is being handled by Kathleen Smitheram. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact either myself (details above) or Kathleen. (Kathleen.smitheram@cdhb.health.nz; Phone 364-4134). Please refer to the OIA number above when phoning or emailing.

If any additional factors come to light which are relevant to your request, please do not hesitate to contact us so that these can be taken into account.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Turp
Project Specialist

15 Decisions on requests

(1) Subject to this Act, the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation to whom a request is made in accordance with [section 12](#) or is transferred in accordance with [section 14](#) of this Act or [section 12](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case not later than 20 working days after the day on which the request is received by that department or Minister of the Crown or organisation,—

(1)(a) decide whether the request is to be granted and, if it is to be granted, in what manner and for what charge (if any); and

(1)(b) give or post to the person who made the request notice of the decision on the request

[If we are unable to make a decision on your request by the date noted above, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.]