

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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20 April 2020

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt

**Email:** [fyi-request-12518-5db0b136@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12518-5db0b136@requests.fyi.org.nz);  
[fyi-request-12503-3e300133@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12503-3e300133@requests.fyi.org.nz);

Dear Ms Van Wey Lovatt

### **RE Official information request CDHB 10293 and WCDHB 9411**

We refer to 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.**

Please note that at this unprecedented time, Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB have diverted significant resources from across the organisations to support the COVID-19 response.

It is therefore necessary to extend the time required to make a decision on your request for information in accordance with section 15A of the Official Information Act.

This is because the information cannot reasonably be identified by the necessary people within 20 working days without interfering with our operations and also the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a response cannot be provided within the original timeframe.

As such, we expect that a decision will be made on your request and communicated to you by 5 June 2020.

If you do not agree with our decision to extend the response time on your request, you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision by the Ombudsman.

Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz); or  
Freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**