



14 May 2020

Dr Amy Van Wey Lovatt

Via email: [fyi-request-12529-75534a5a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12529-75534a5a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Dr Van Wey Lovatt

### Information requests

As we have previously advised you, the scale of the multiple information requests you have been sending to Waikato District Health Board is very challenging for the DHB to manage. We have previously advised you that we have centralised your requests to one point within the DHB so that they can be managed appropriately.

### Request dated 22 March 2020

You have made the following request:

*Request 1:*

*I am writing to request a copy of the your DHB's best practice protocol for the archiving, storage, or biobanking of human tissue for diagnostic purposes, whether they are formalin fixed, paraffin embedded or pathology slides, and the standards, legislation or scientific evidence which provides the basis for your DHB's protocol.*

*Request 2:*

*Is your DHB protocol for the archiving, storage, or biobanking of human tissue for diagnostic purposes, whether they are formalin fixed, paraffin embedded or pathology slides, based on a universally adopted standard within NZ or has your DHB determined its own policy.*

*Request 3:*

*Please explain the potential hazards of leaving formalin fixed, paraffin embedded or pathology slides in an unsecure, non-temperature and non-humidity regulated environment for 2 months over a NZ summer: say a on an employee's desk which is open to the public and in a repurposed house adjacent to the hospital from mid December to late February.*

*Request 4:*

*Please provide me with the name of the independent agency or agencies which provides oversight for your medical laboratory.*

*Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please note, I have made this same request to every DHB in NZ in order to ascertain if there is a universal standard within NZ and also to determine if every DHB is familiar with the hazards associated with mishandling of pathology specimens.*

We advise that Waikato DHB's histology laboratory adheres to the requirements published in the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) Seventh Edition 2018. International Accreditation New Zealand assesses our laboratory against the relevant international standard.



The remainder of your request is considered vexatious and is refused under section 18(h) of the Official Information Act. To reach this decision, Waikato DHB has considered numerous factors including the intention of the requests, the purpose and value of the requests, the history and context of the requests, and the repeat requests received from you. Having regard to the context of this request, we consider that it is an abuse of the right to access official information.

### **Your rights**

As previously advised if you have concerns about Waikato DHB's decisions, you can contact the following agencies:

- For concerns relating to the privacy of your information you can contact the Office of the Privacy Commissioner at <https://www.privacy.org.nz/> or by writing to Office of the Privacy Commissioner, PO Box 10094, Wellington 6143.
- For concerns about the health care you have received, you can contact the Health & Disability Commissioner at <https://www.hdc.org.nz/> or by calling 0800 11 22 33.
- For concerns about your treatment by a government agency or our decisions on your requests for information, you can contact the Office of the Ombudsman at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/> or by writing to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

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Waikato District Health Board  
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*(approved but not signed due to remote working)*