

29 May 2020

Nigel Gray

[fyi-request-12827-83ab6f33@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12827-83ab6f33@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Nigel

**Re: OIA request – Number of electroconvulsive devices**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, which was partially transferred from the Ministry of Health (MoH) on 21 May 2020, seeking information about the number of Electroconvulsive Therapy devices at Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

The MoH will respond to part 2 of your request. Part 1 was transferred to Waitematā DHB.

In response to your request, we can provide the following information:

- 1. Given that electroconvulsive treatment has been used as a method of torture historically in New Zealand, can you please inform me of the precise number of these devices in New Zealand hospitals in present time?**

Waitematā DHB has two electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) devices both used only therapeutically to treat ECT-responsive psychiatric disorders. Only one is used at any time, with the second device being available as a back-up to ensure continuity of treatment should the other device be unavailable.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely,



**Derek Wright**  
Specialist Mental Health & Addictions Services Lead  
Waitematā District Health Board