



Lakes District Health Board
Corner Arawa and Ranolf Streets (Pukeroa Street)
Private Bag 3023, Rotorua Mail Centre
Rotorua 3046, New Zealand
Telephone 07 348 1199
www.lakesdhb.govt.nz

29 June 2020

Amy Van Wey Lovatt

E mail: fyi-request-12925-c9abedb9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Amy

Subject: Official Information Act request Re: policies and freedom of information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act received by Lakes DHB on 1 June 2020. You have asked for:

Request 1:

Thus, I respectfully request that your DHB make ALL of your DHB policies, protocols and best practice documents publicly available.

While on the face of it, my request may seem like a time consuming task; however, this should not be the case. Currently, DHB policies, protocols and best practice documents are held electronically and are available on your DHB intranet (employee access only), and in many cases, there are already hyper-links between policies, protocols and best practice documents. Thus, in order to change the setting to the policies, protocols and best practice documents from private (intranet and employee access only) to public ought to be accomplished by a click of a button (or, at most, a line or two of code). Upon completion, I respectfully request a response with the website address to the DHB policies.

Our legacy EDMS is not able to provide public access to our full range of policies, procedures, guidelines and forms. As such we are unable to make all of our policies publicly available at the push of a button. Lakes DHB is transparent and provides specific policies to requesters when asked for them.

Request 2:

Is your DHB laboratory and radiology departments, or the agencies your DHB has contracted out pathology and radiology services, IANZ accredited?

Yes, both Radiology and Laboratory departments are accredited.

Request 3:

In the event that your DHB, or the agencies your DHB has contracted out pathology and radiology services, is IANZ accredited, I respectfully request ALL of the documentation submitted to IANZ for accreditation by your DHB (or contracted agencies) be made publicly available upon your DHB website (or as a link to your contracted agencies website). Again, while this may appear to be a daunting task on the face of it, this information ought to be in electronic form and have been collated prior to submission to IANZ. Thus, again, my request ought to be accomplished by a click of a button or at most, a few lines of code to link the website to the appropriate folder on your internal systems.

I make these request in order to save time, energy and financial resources. By making the requested information publicly available, the DHB will not need to spend valuable time and resources in answering repeated requests for policies, protocols and best practice documentation, and will help your DHB become compliant with Ministry of Health Standards (such as HISO 10064 and 10029) and legislative requirements, such as those described in the Health Information Privacy Code 1994, Health Act 1956, and Health and Disability Commissioner (Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights) Regulations 1996.

The accreditation documents for our laboratory involve a very large number of pages with a significant amount of detail we were to include ALL documentation. Some of the information is private i.e. staff appraisals, incident reporting, complaint reports/ investigations etc .

To enable the posting of such documentation on our website, we would need to ensure that any document posted did not include any information that could lead to a breach in privacy. It would require significant time to review all the documents to ensure we are not breaching staff or patient privacy.

In addition it is unlikely that access to this information is in the public interest. The public needs to know only that the laboratory has submitted all of the required documentation and is accredited.

Please note we may publish this letter and enclosed documents (with your personal information removed) on Lakes DHB's website.

Yours sincerely



Nick Saville-Wood
Chief Executive

Cc: sectoroias@moh.govt.nz