

10 June 2020

Amy Lovatt

**By email to:** [fyi-request-12984-0b586a5e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12984-0b586a5e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Amy

**Re Official Information Request – Publication of DHB policies, protocols and best practice documents**

I refer to your official information request dated 30 May 2020 requesting:

**Request 1: that your DHB make ALL of your DHB policies, protocols and best practice documents publicly available.**

**Response:** This is not an OIA request, it is a request for publication of ADHB policies on an on-going basis.

We do not consider there is public interest in such publication, as provision of these documents, drafted for internal use, without individual context would not align with our goal of transparency. Many would be incomprehensible as they are not drafted for patients or to inform the public, most are clinical, drafted for the use of clinicians who have been trained to understand such documentation or for staff members who have necessary context.

Also, while you suggest that it would be a minor task to add all DHB policies, protocols and best practice documents to our website, that is not the case. These documents number in the thousands and are commonly over 10 pages each. To upload a subset, the 3000+ policy documents managed centrally, would take 1 minute a document or 6 working days. Then there would be the need to maintain the currency of each document, plus context.

**Request 2: Is your DHB laboratory and radiology departments, or the agencies your DHB has contract out pathology and radiology services, IANZ accredited?**

**Response:** Yes

**Request 3: - That 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).**

**Response:** This is not an OIA request, it is a request for publication of information provided to an accreditation agency on an on-going basis.

We do not consider there is public interest in such publication, as provision of these documents, created and provided solely to comply with the requirements of the accreditation agency, without individual context would not align with our goal of transparency. Many would be incomprehensible as they are not drafted for patients or to inform the public on an issue, they are drafted for the exclusive use of the professionals employed by the accreditation agency to meet their professional requirements within the accreditation and related audit processes.

We do not believe there is a public interest in this information, only the fact of accreditation - as with any audit, the information (working papers) collected by the auditor for that professional purpose are not of any interest in themselves.

Also, while you suggest that it would be a minor task to add all these documents to our website, that is not the case. They are substantial, and have not been prepared or compiled for publication. They exist in a variety of formats, aligning with the specialist processes of the accreditation agency. As they are prepared for and align with the agency's processes, they may be the subject of commercial confidentiality.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
**Chief Executive**