

6 July 2020

William T Francis

By email: fyi-request-13165-68267827@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202004837

Dear William T Francis

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 27 June 2020 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for:

"I refer to the Health Information Security Framework:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/h...>

- 1. Please provide current documents and reports that detail the methodology and regularity of HISF audits that are conducted upon private sector organisations in New Zealand.*
- 2. If no such audits are carried out, please provide explanation and/or justification as to why, with reference to the Health Information Privacy Code 1994."*

As the Ministry does not undertake Health Information Security Framework (HISF) audits, part 1 of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information you have requested does not exist.

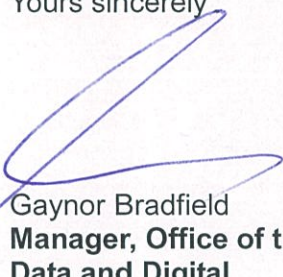
In response to part 2 of your request, the Ministry created the HISF, a Health Information Standards Organisation (HISO) standard that district health boards (DHBs) and other health care organisations are expected to adhere to. Health care organisations make operational choices about how they ensure adherence, and the Ministry expects that the management of all healthcare organisations undertake risk management processes to understand their risks and respond accordingly. The HISF provides guidance about these expectations.

Our previous response (H202003113 refers) of 23 June 2020 provided an extract from advice provided to all DHBs on 15 December 2016. This set out the authority for the HISF and the requirements that are imposed on DHBs to comply with this standard. While the HISF has authority over health agencies, there is no authority over Public Service or State Sector agencies.

The Health Information Privacy Code 1994 (the Privacy Code) applies to agencies in the health sector and covers the health information collected, used, held and disclosed. Further information about the Privacy Code can be found on the Privacy Commissioner's website: www.privacy.org.nz. Where the Privacy Code does not apply to a particular agency, the Privacy Act 1993 will apply. Information about the Privacy Act 1993 can also be found on the website above.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal stroke and a small flourish at the end.

Gaynor Bradfield
**Manager, Office of the Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital**