



7 April 2021

'K'

Via email: fyi-request-14862-1bc42bc5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear K

Re: OIA request - Vulnerable Persons Register

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request, which we received as a partial transfer from Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) on 12 March 2021, seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the vulnerable persons register (VPR).

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

You requested the following:

I request all information on what services were put in place to risk assess the Vulnerable Persons List. This template is on the CASA (Clinical Advisory Services Aotearoa) website.

Vulnerable people are what the Waikato DHB and some members of community boards the police feel that suicide is imminent due to a family member having committed suicide recently or a close friend or a cluster of suicides in a contained area.

The suggestion that varied services observe these elected 'Vulnerable Persons'. Without contact and without knowledge of such a list.

CASA also goes on to pinpoint specific data that is maintained for some 10 years and is to be shared with relevant authorities.

I have already request privately all the information regarding myself and my family members who were told by a slightly honest representative for the crown that my eldest son and myself have been on this list since 2019. To no avail. Nothing has been forthcoming at all.

CASA states that certain managers of each DHB hold the list as well as themselves and the relevant services have access to this database.

1. *What the cost of maintaining this list is for each DHB.*
2. *What are the observers having to observe and where is the critical point that would be addressed by making contact with a listee in order to assist?*
3. *I would like to know how many people are on this list. Either*
 - a. *with knowledge and consent or*
 - b. *completely unaware.*
4. *How and who collates the data collected.*
5. *How many persons have committed suicide whilst either*
 - a. *being on the list*
 - b. *having family members on this list for an extended period with no contact.*
6. *I would like to know who is the administrator and who is responsible for the inadequate and inhumane structure of observing without any contact to the persons being observed, even after a family member may commit suicide.*
7. *Under what human and legal rights as well as privacy laws does this 'Observing and collating data' use or fail to use.*
8. *What funding is allocated for this VPL and for the varied govt services that are coerced to perform this.*
9. *Whether ACC is prepared to cover the cost of traumatic loss of life whilst being observed on the list. to cover government subsidised breach of ethics, laws, financial accountability, morality and humanity.*
10. *Have you heard of the Cartwright Inquiry?*

The DIA transferred questions 1 to 8 and question 10 to us. Question 9 was transferred to the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC).

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

Questions 1 to 4 and 6 to 8

We notified you on 31 March 2021 that we had transferred these questions to the Ministry of Health as Waitematā DHB does not maintain, administer or fund the VPR and we were, therefore, unable to provide a response.

The register is maintained by CASA (Clinical Advisory Services Aotearoa), which is funded by the Ministry of Health to provide a community suicide postvention response service.

In these circumstances, we are required under section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 to transfer your request.

Question 9

As previously noted, this question was transferred to ACC.

Questions 5 and 10

Our responses to these questions are below.

5. How many persons have committed suicide whilst either
- a. being on the list
 - b. having family members on this list for an extended period with no contact.

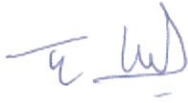
Waitematā DHB is withholding this information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act on the grounds that the need to protect the privacy of the small numbers of people on the list outweighs the public interest in making the information available.

10. Have you heard of the Cartwright Inquiry?

Yes, Waitematā DHB is well aware of the Cartwright Inquiry.

You have the right to complain to the Ombudsman of the decisions we have taken in relation to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Wood', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Tim Wood
Interim Executive Director
Tier One Community Services
Waitematā District Health Board