

18 October 2021

Michael Vaughan

By email: fyi-request-16802-906337e6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Michael,

Re: Official Information Act Request

I refer to your Official Information Act request received on 20 September 2021 in which you specifically requested the following:

1. What is the Covid-19 treatment protocol for hospitalised cases?

SCDHB's response: The MOH have published a treatment protocol for COVID-19 patients. This can be found at:

https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/interim_guidance_-_clinical_management_of_covid-19_hospitalised_adults_2.pdf

2. Are some DHB's following different treatment protocols from others?

SCDHB's response: We are unable to comment on what other DHB protocols are, therefore your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) as the information requested is not held by the SCDHB and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

3. Are DHB's free to make decisions about treatments for individuals with Covid-19?

SCDHB's response: It is not envisaged that the MOH would case manage the treatment of each patient with COVID-19.

4. To what extent are patients able to participate in decision-making about their treatment programmes?

SCDHB's response: As with the provision of all care, SCDHB encourages active patient participation in the creation of their care plans.

5. If a patient requests a blood test for Vitamin D and/or the administration of high dosage Vitamin C, are hospital staff able to provide these?

SCDHB's response: This would be considered on a case by case basis.

6. Do hospital staff have the right to refuse a patient's request and, if so, is there a process for a patient to appeal the decision?

SCDHB's response: This would follow standard protocols and we would work with the patient as much as possible. There are processes for patients to question clinician decision-making.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Office can be contacted on 0800 802 602 or on-line at

<http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>

Kind regards

Brenna Shaw
SLT Administrator
South Canterbury DHB