

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

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CHRISTCHURCH

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30 April 2015

Mr Tom Sellers

Email: fyi-request-2573-366a377d@requests.fyi.org.nz;

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (OIA) REQUEST CDHB/G 9081

We refer to your request dated 11 March 2015 under the Official Information Act (1982) requesting the following information relating to Canterbury District Health Board:

1. How many staff have accepted gifts from the pharmaceutical industry in any form or nature?

Staff employed by Canterbury DHB (CDHB) are expected to maintain appropriate professional standards and relationships with other services and providers at all times. The CDHB expects its clinical staff to act ethically and appropriately in prescribing medications as part of the professional standards required under their registration and according to the practitioner's competency requirements. This requires the identification and declaration of any actual or potential conflict of interest that may occur in their day to day business activities or contact.

Please see the CDHB policy on staff accepting gifts and hospitality (attached as **appendix one**). This policy applies to all circumstances where individuals have received gifts in any form or nature including the pharmaceutical industry. This entails staff to declare gifts and hospitality (declaration from attached as **appendix two**). All such staff declarations are held at a Head of Department/Service Manager level and this information is not currently held in a central repository.

The CDHB is therefore declining to provide an answer on the number of staff who have accepted gifts under Section 18(f) of the OIA on the basis that: "... the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research." In the event that you disagree with our decision you may, under section 28(3) of the Act, seek an investigation and review of our decision from the Ombudsman.

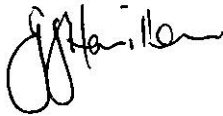
2. What is the level of influence of the pharmaceutical industry on the New Zealand medical profession?

The CDHB is unable to answer this question in that it is not possible to determine the influence on the medical profession as a whole.

3. What is the relationship between your DHB and the pharmaceutical industry?

There is no direct relationship between the CDHB and the pharmaceutical industry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gullery', written in a cursive style.

For Carolyn Gullery
**General Manager,
Planning, Funding & Decision Support**