

18 March 2016

David Lawson
fyi-request-3657-796bcb2f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lawson

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your requests for information dated 21 February 2016.

We have treated this email as containing requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Your requests and our corresponding responses are set out below. The wording of your specific requests is set out in ACC's response, written in *italics*.

Request One

I am writing to request all official information associated with ACC's and ACC's staff use of, access to, and ability to create, add to, delete from and amended National Health Index (NHI), and Medical Warning Systems (MWS) Information on an ACC claimants NHI and or MWS, and or any other Unique Identifier associated with the NHI and or MWS, is provided to me per the terms and conditions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Response to Request One

The purpose of the National Health Index (NHI), including the National Health Index number (NHI number), is to help with the planning, coordination and provision of health and disability support services across New Zealand.

The purpose of the Medical Warnings System (MWS) is to warn health and disability support services of any known risk factors that may be important when making clinical decisions about individual patient care.

The NHI and the MWS are separate systems, which are both managed by the Ministry of Health. The MWS can be accessed through the NHI, but access to data on the MWS is restricted solely to health and disability support services for use in caring for the individual.

We include for your information a link from the Ministry of Health's website regarding NHI and MWS statement of use:

<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/health-identity/national-health-index/nhi-information-health-consumers/national-health-index-and-medical-warnings-system-statement-use>

As noted by you in your email, ACC is included in Schedules 1 and 2 of the Health Information Privacy Code 1994. The applicable rule within this Code means that ACC may assign the same National Health Index number (already created) to an individual.

The NHI, NHI number and MWS however are 'unique identifiers' that are created, owned and managed by Ministry of Health. ACC may have these details on file, but only because they have been provided to us somehow in the claim lodgement form, or in a report supplied to us by a health care provider.

ACC does not have the ability to create, add to, delete from and amend NHI and MWS information relating to ACC claimants and/or any other unique identifier that may be associated with the NHI and/or the MWS. Accordingly, we do not have any policies, procedures, processes or training material that fall within the scope of your request because they do not exist. This decision is made in accordance with section 18(e) of the Act.

Request Two

In the event ACC is able to create, add, modify and or delete any other unique identifier, that I have not already specified, that is or are associated with a claimant's NHI and or MWS numbers please specify the unique identifier/s and provide the same information that I have requested in relation to the NHI and MWS unique identifiers above.

Response to Request Two

Please refer to our response to Request One.

We suggest you contact the Ministry of Health. To be of assistance, we include Ministry of Health links to:

- NHI questions and answers
<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/health-identity/national-health-index/nhi-information-health-consumers/national-health-index-questions-and-answers>
- Finding out the information about you in the NHI
<http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/health-identity/national-health-index/nhi-information-health-consumers/finding-out-information-about-you-nhi>

Queries or concerns about ACC's response

If you have further questions, contact us by email at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman regarding our response. You can call them on 0800 802 602, 9am to 5pm weekdays, or write to: The Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10 152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

Government Services