

30 March 2017

Mr David Lawson
fyi-request-5436-6782f706@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lawson

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request of 23 February 2017, asking for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 23 March 2017 we provided a response to your request. In that letter we advised you that we required an extension to 30 March 2017 to respond to the following part of your request:

4. Please confirm which medical professional specialist sub-group listed below ACC is required to refer to for the assessments, diagnosis and recommended treatment for resultant injury and symptoms to any of the three branches of the trigeminal nerves being the ophthalmic, maxillary, and mandibular divisions of the fifth cranial nerve of the brain.:-

- a) orthopaedic surgeon,*
- b) neurologist,*
- c) neurosurgeon.*

Our response

As you are aware from previous correspondence, while the Official Information Act 1982 requires an agency to make official information available unless there is good reason to refuse a request, it does not require ACC to respond to requests for its opinion, comment or respond to hypothetical situations. Accordingly, we do not consider your request to amount to a request for official information.

Notwithstanding that, and as it might assist your understanding, we note that when first determining whether a claim should receive cover it is necessary to determine injury causation. In relation to an injury involving the trigeminal nerves, a member of any one of the three specialties you have identified could be asked to provide an assessment of injury causation for the purposes of determining cover under the Accident Compensation Act 2001.

ACC is happy to answer your questions

If you have any questions about the information provided, ACC will be happy to work with you to answer these. You can contact us at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz or in writing to *Government Services, PO Box 242, Wellington 6140.*

You have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman about our decision to withhold some of the information. You can call them on 0800 802 602 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, or write to *The Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.*

Yours sincerely

Government Services