

23 August 2017

Karyn Black
Email: fyi-request-6339-37c45e5d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Karyn

Re: Official Information Act Request – Information pertaining to the use of security cameras in mental health inpatient units

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) received 2 August 2017 with regard to the use of security cameras in mental health inpatient units.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services to assist your understanding. The Waitemata DHB Specialist Mental Health and Addiction Service serves a population of 619,000 within the Waitemata District and is the largest service in the country by volume of service-users seen. The Waitemata DHB Adult Mental Health Services operate community mental health care from three community hubs and two satellite teams, an assessment service associated with the Emergency Department at North Shore Hospital, and two acute adult mental health inpatient units. He Puna Waiora is the acute inpatient unit on the North Shore Hospital site and Waiatarau is on the Waitakere Hospital site.

In answer to your questions, please see the responses provided below. We have endeavoured to explain how we have interpreted your questions in the answers below.

1. **Does either “Waiatarau” or “He Puna Waiora” mental health inpatient units currently have security cameras operating with the hospital area? I am defining hospital area as including: the reception area, entrance and exit points, main patient leisure areas, occupational therapy spaces, seclusion rooms, patient corridors, intensive care or high dependency areas, private/patient outside garden spaces. This excludes any cameras operating outside of the inpatient unit treatment areas such as car parks, public hospital grounds.**
2. **If the inpatient unit does have cameras operating may you please provide the following information:**
 - 2.a) **When were the cameras installed?**
 - 2.b) **Where are the cameras are located?**
 - 2.c) **How many cameras are operating?**

Both Waiatarau and He Puna Waiora have security cameras. These are mostly mounted on the outside of the buildings, and mostly focused on monitoring who enters and exits the buildings, in the interests of providing security for the people who are staying in the units, visitors and staff. Some cameras have also been installed for the purpose of deterring property damage. There are no cameras inside the units in the therapeutic areas, leisure spaces or bedroom areas in the interests of protecting privacy. The cameras in Waiatarau were installed when the building opened in early

2007. He Puna Waiora opened in mid-2015 and replaced the Taharoto unit. Cameras were installed in the Taharoto unit in the early 2000's.

We are withholding information about the location of the CCTV cameras under s9(2)(c) of the Official Information Act 1982 on the basis that withholding the information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health and safety of our patients and staff. The cameras are in place to protect the safety of patients, visitors and staff. They ensure that risky situations are identified quickly to ensure appropriate assistance is given. They will be less effective if their locations become widely known.

2.d) "Seclusion, Restraint, and Assault" reporting data for one year prior to the installation of any security cameras. For example, if cameras were installed June 2010, I request Seclusion, Restraint and Assault reporting data for the period from June 2009 – June 2010.

2.e) "Seclusion, Restraint, and Assault" reporting data for one year after the installation of any security cameras. For example, if cameras were installed June 2010, I request Seclusion, Restraint and Assault reporting data for the period from June 2010 – June 2011.

The seclusion, restraint and assault data collection and reporting systems have changed significantly between the early and late 2000's and the present day, and we are unable to provide the data requested. However, as the above information shows Waitemata DHB Adult Mental Health Services operate cameras for security reasons, rather than as a therapeutic tool. Therefore, it would not be expected that there would be any impact on seclusion, restraint, or assault data from before or after camera installation.

I trust this information will satisfy your request.

Yours sincerely



Dr Susanna Galea-Singer
Director
Specialist Mental Health & Addictions Services