



24 October 2017

Karyn Black

Via email to: fyi-request-6151-c6498d35@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Black

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 2 October requesting information subject to the Official Information Act.

Mental Health & Addictions Services
Waiora Waikato Hospital Campus
Level 1, Hockin Building
Hague Road
Private Bag 3200
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

Ph: 07 834 3607

Your request was to provide:

1. The reason/purpose for installing security cameras within your adult mental health inpatient units
2. How you measure that the security cameras are addressing their initial purpose (as listed in answer to question 1.)
3. All policy documents relating to the use of security cameras in adult mental health inpatient units

In responding to points 1 and 2 of your request, I would refer you to our response to your request of 7 July, where we confirmed: *“Security cameras have been in use for many years across the Waikato Hospital campus, including the Henry Rongomau Bennett Centre. The cameras are a security measure, primarily to ensure the safety of our service users and patients, staff and property. As such the cameras are situated in areas of access and exit to hospital facilities and wards. The cameras are not used for “surveillance” or monitoring of clinical activities and are not routinely in use in these areas”.*

Given the reason/purpose for the installation of the cameras it is difficult to measure their success in addressing their purpose, other than to confirm in cases of issues involving the safety and security of service users, staff and property footage from the cameras is helpful in assisting investigation and review. Cameras are also used across campus to establish the identity of individuals prior to opening security doors where appropriate.

All cameras are maintained on a six monthly basis by an external contractor.

With regard to your request for policy documents relating to the use of cameras, please find attached the Waikato DHB Surveillance Policy which covers this element of security.

If you have any further questions or queries, please feel free to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

Vicki Aitken
Acting Executive Director
Mental Health and Addictions Service

