

23 February 2018

Jem Traylen  
Rainbow Wellington  
By email to: [fyi-request-7182-dd69d318@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7182-dd69d318@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Jem

**Re Official Information Request - Gender reassignment surgeons**

I refer to your official information request dated 28 January 2018 for information about whether or not Auckland DHB has availability of surgeons to perform gender reassignment surgeries.

In response, I can advise that Auckland DHB does not perform gender reassignment surgeries such as genital reconstruction and is not considering recruiting a specialist with these skills.

If an Auckland DHB resident requires referral for this surgery, then an application to the Ministry of Health High Cost Treatment Pool is completed by a DHB employed medical specialist. This surgery is not presently performed in New Zealand and the Ministry of Health manages arrangements for all New Zealanders with overseas providers.

Should a decision be made nationally to provide this surgery in New Zealand at a future date, Auckland DHB will work with the Ministry of Health to ensure there is equitable access to this service for our population.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive