

21 JUN 2018

P Lamborn
Email: fyi-request-7902-e151e6c0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201803867

Dear P Lamborn

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 23 May 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), as follows:

- "1) Please provide:
- a. Briefing Request Ref. No.: 20010873
 - b. Health Report Ref.: 20022985
 - c. The letter received by the minister from MP Tim Barnett, and the reply dated 26 February 2003, along with any further correspondence in this chain
- 2) In addition, please confirm that the NZHTA review of GRS (February 2002) referenced in the released document is the document available online at http://nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz/publications/trans_gender.pdf (if not, please provide the correct version) and answer the following questions:
- a. Under what circumstance was the review initiated, i.e. what organisation, project, or individual called for its creation?
 - b. In the 16 years to the date of this request, have the findings of this review been superseded by any later review or other document? If so, please provide these documents
 - c. Is any new review on this subject currently planned or underway? If so, please provide details
 - d. Given that NZHTA is no longer a going concern, if a similar review were to be conducted today who would be responsible?
 - e. If a new review were to be conducted on this topic, who would have the authority to commission it and on what grounds?"

The information relating to this request is itemised in the table below, with copies of documents attached. Some of the information is already in the public domain. The link to this information is noted alongside the relevant item.

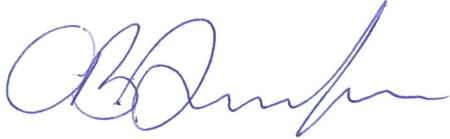
I have decided under Section 9(2)(a) of the Act to withhold information to protect the privacy of natural persons. I have also decided under Section 18(e) to refuse your request for information that does not exist or cannot be found. Specific grounds are noted where information has been withheld or refused.

Request	Response
<p>1(a). Briefing Request Ref. No.: 20010873</p>	<p>A copy of the briefing is attached.</p> <p>The first document referenced in Paragraph 11 of the Briefing can be found at:</p> <p><i>http://benjamin.lisan.free.fr/jardin.secret/EcritsScientifiques/GuideTranssexuel/docs/Surgical-gender-reassignment-for-male-to-female-transsexual_dec_88.pdf</i></p> <p>The second document referenced in Paragraph 11, produced by the Aggressive Research Intelligence Facility, cannot be found. (Section 18(e))</p>
<p>1(b). Health Report Ref.: 20022985</p>	<p>A copy of the Health Report is attached.</p>
<p>1(c). The letter received by the minister from MP Tim Barnett, and the reply dated 26 February 2003, along with any further correspondence in this chain</p>	<p>This correspondence was destroyed after 10 years, under Archives New Zealand General Disposal Authority. (Section 18(e))</p> <p>However, an electronic version of the final draft of the Minister's reply still exists and a copy is attached.</p>
<p>2) In addition, please confirm that the NZHTA review of GRS (February 2002) referenced in the released document is the document available online at http://nzhta.chmeds.ac.nz/publications/trans_gender.pdf</p>	<p>This is the document in question.</p>
<p>2(a). Under what circumstance was the review initiated, i.e. what organisation, project, or individual called for its creation?</p>	<p>The Ministry of Health commissioned this work in order to provide a final review of the evidence of effectiveness of gender reassignment surgery.</p>
<p>2(b). In the 16 years to the date of this request, have the findings of this review been superseded by any later review or other document? If so, please provide these documents</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2(c). Is any new review on this subject currently planned or underway? If so, please provide details</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2(d). Given that NZHTA is no longer a going concern, if a similar review were to be conducted today who would be responsible?</p>	<p>This information does not exist. (Section 18(e))</p>
<p>2(e). If a new review were to be conducted on this topic, who would have the authority to commission it and on what grounds?</p>	<p>This information does not exist. (Section 18(e))</p>

Please note that the documents accompanying this letter were written some 15 years ago and do not reflect current policy with regard to gender reassignment surgery.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold or refuse to release information under this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Simpson', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrew Simpson
Chief Medical Officer