



**Waitematā**  
District Health Board  
**Best Care for Everyone**

**DHB Board Office**  
15 Shea Terrace  
Takapuna, Auckland 0622  
Private Bag 93-503, Takapuna  
North Shore City 0740  
Telephone: 09 486 8900  
Facsimile: 09 486 8924  
[www.waitematadhb.govt.nz](http://www.waitematadhb.govt.nz)

13 December 2019

Margaret Mechum  
[fyi-request-11812-8e293716@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11812-8e293716@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Margaret

**Re: OIA request - Information provided to Radio New Zealand about informed consent**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 6 December seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about information provided to Radio New Zealand in a previous OIA response.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 7,500 people across more than 80 different locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

Our responses to your questions are provided below.

I refer you to Radio New Zealand's story on 5 November 'Nurses say gynaecology patients' rights were breached':

[https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=7264&d=tZDo3T\\_dIPSmsF4TioZjhYRdaQd1dKWcBX2FgVmkwA&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2ernz%2eco%2enz%2fnews%2fnational%2f404883%2fnurses-say-gynaecology-patients-rights-were-breached%29](https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=7264&d=tZDo3T_dIPSmsF4TioZjhYRdaQd1dKWcBX2FgVmkwA&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2ernz%2eco%2enz%2fnews%2fnational%2f404883%2fnurses-say-gynaecology-patients-rights-were-breached%29)

According to the story: "Waitematā DHB did not tell RNZ about these interactions with the Nurses Organisation, despite them being within the scope of an Official Information Act request".

I request under the Official Information Act 1982 all available information from the DHB about why the DHB did not provide RNZ with information about interactions with the New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) relating to their concerns on informed consent.

I request all information held relating to this matter, including the recollections of DHB staff

**responsible for the decision.**

In response, I can advise that the Official Information Act request received from Radio New Zealand was highly specific in that the requester strongly signalled he was only interested in any concerns about the unconsented intimate examination of female patients under general anaesthetic.

The requester emphasised his intended scope by highlighting it in bold text, underlining it and signing off his request with: "The information sought pertains only to that in bold and underlined above".

On this basis, the request made of Waitematā DHB was clear and a response was provided within the clear terms outlined.

A copy of the request and our response has been proactively disclosed on the Waitematā DHB website. It can be accessed here:

<http://www.waitematadhb.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Publish-OIA-response-informed-consent.pdf>

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke ending in a small dot.

**J. Christiansen**  
**Chief Medical Officer**  
**Waitematā District Health Board**