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12 May 2020

OIA 2020/080

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt

Email: [fyi-request-12108-26ab0a13@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12108-26ab0a13@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Amy

**Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) – Amendment sought – OIA 2020/080 – Referral pathways in the Capital & Coast District Health Board region**

I refer to your official information request, which was originally received by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 29 January 2020.

As stated in my acknowledgement email to you on 6 May 2020, the Ministry partially transferred the aspect of your request regarding referral pathways to Capital & Coast District Health Board (CCDHB), to answer in relation to our region. This partial transfer was received by CCDHB on 1 May 2020.

It appears likely that your original request will need to be amended to enable us to respond.

Please note, in line with section 15(1AA) of the OIA, any clarification or amendment of a request is considered to be a new request for the purpose of calculating the maximum statutory timeframe for response.

The following aspect of your original request was transferred to CCDHB:

*‘... a copy of each referral pathway for [the CCDHB region]’.*

You specified that *‘[g]iven that every DHB must “ensure that clear referral pathways are in place and known to all clinicians”, clearly such policies must exist... Thus, I request... these policies.’*

We would like to give you a full and complete response. However, there are a broad range of referral pathways across services and specialties, both between and within our DHB. Each referral pathway is specific to a specialty, and then again to the type of service required; and each pathway is different again according to the level of detail contained therein.

The current wording of the request makes no specification of which specialty’s referral pathway is being sought, or the level of detail required. Therefore, if we do not receive an amendment to the current wording of your request, we may have to refuse your request according to section 18(f) of the OIA, as it is currently too broad for us to respond to without substantial collation and research.

Having read your request, and the background information you provided (you make specific mention to testing for hyperaldosteronism), we suspect you may want a high-level referral pathway relating to the endocrine specialty, which we would be happy to provide.

Please contact us regarding an amendment to the current wording of your request by emailing us at [oa@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:oa@ccdhb.org.nz), or by responding directly to the email containing this letter. We would appreciate you getting in touch with us regarding an amendment on or by 17 May 2020; if we do not hear from you by that date, we will make a decision on your request based on its current wording.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or you can free phone 0800 802 602.

Nāku ite noa, nā



**Catherine Stewart**

*Correspondence Officer, Office of the Chief Executive*