

22 May 2020

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt

Email: fyi-request-12108-26ab0a13@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Van Wey Lovatt

Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 3 April 2020, which was partially transferred to Taranaki DHB on 6 May 2020. You have requested the following information:

The MoH Operational Policy Framework 2019/20, available through Nationwide Service Framework Library <<https://nsfl.health.govt.nz>>, states under section 7.5.2 "Regions should ensure that clear referral pathways are in place and known to all clinicians."

Given that every DHB must "ensure that clear referral pathways are in place and known to all clinicians", clearly such policies must exist, and thus section 18(g) cannot apply to my request.

Request 1:

Thus, I request, under section 13 and 14 of the OIA that you please assist me in obtaining these policies even if it requires transferring my request to each and every DHB or another relevant agency, which would have the required information.

While Taranaki DHB does not have a formal written policy on referral pathways outside of the Taranaki region, apart from the attached guidelines, we are in a unique position in that we have historically used specific services from other DHBs in New Zealand due to our geographical location and medium sized DHB.

For example:

- Neurology services are provided by a visiting neurology service from Auckland DHB. Referrals into our service are prioritized by the visiting Neurologists themselves and appointments/investigations are arranged as required.
- MidCentral DHB provide a visiting service for Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology and Haematology patients.
- Neurosurgery is provided by Capital Coast DHB.

Continued...

All referrals to another hospital or specialty service outside of the Taranaki region are made by, or on behalf of, Senior Medical Officers of Taranaki DHB only. Since 2012, any referrals from General Practitioners are not accepted by these providers unless they receive written approval from Taranaki DHB also.

I trust the above information answers your OIA request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gill Campbell", followed by a period.

Gillian Campbell
Chief Operating Officer

Enc.