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Mark Montgomery

Email: fyi-request-12126-bbd348ae@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mark

RE Official Information Act (the "Act") request CDHB 10262

I refer to your email dated 31 January 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB specifically:

- **copies of all Asbestos Management Plans prepared under Regulation 13(2) of the Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016 for all workplaces occupied or from time to time occupied by the District Health Board where asbestos or ACM (Asbestos Containing Material) is suspected to be or has been identified at the workplace.**

Canterbury DHB has been systematically identifying asbestos in work areas for some time, and has asbestos' registers in respect of each of its campuses, namely:

- Christchurch Hospital;
- The Princess Margaret Hospital;
- Burwood Hospital;
- Hillmorton Hospital;
- Rangiora Health Hub;
- Lincoln Maternity;
- Ashburton Hospital;
- Akaroa Health Hub;
- Darfield;
- Ellesmere;
- Akaroa Integrated Family Health Centre;
- Oxford;
- Waikari; and
- Chatham Islands.

The registers are held electronically and updated whenever a new report is obtained. The register includes details on location, results of all asbestos tests undertaken, assessment of exposure risk and all monitoring results. The registers are reviewed quarterly to help ensure they are kept up to date.

Canterbury DHB staff and Contractors working within our buildings are required to comply with Canterbury DHB's policies and procedures relating to asbestos.

Prior to commencement of any building project, an asbestos survey is obtained to identify any suspected asbestos to be reported and if necessary, removed prior to work starting.

Information held relating to the presence of known or suspected asbestos is provided to staff and contractors how are to be undertaking construction work within a building.

Given the age of some of the Canterbury DHB's legacy buildings, there is a presumption of the presence of asbestos and asbestos containing materials, and the buildings are managed accordingly.

With the introduction of the Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations (*Regulations*), Canterbury DHB identified that it did not have the internal expertise or capacity to proactively survey all its buildings and prepare asbestos management plans in the form required by the Regulations.

As Canterbury DHB shares certain services with West Coast DHB, we engaged a Trans-Alpine Asbestos Manager on behalf of both DHBs to commence proactive survey work and prepare the ensuing management plans. The survey work was completed for the Ashburton campus and a subsequent programme of works to remove asbestos from that campus is 90% complete. However, our Asbestos Manager has since left the Canterbury DHB and we are recruiting for a replacement to progress and oversee completion of the DHB wide programme. In the meantime, Canterbury DHB has recently completed a robust procurement process to appoint a panel of accredited asbestos assessors and contractors. This panel of assessors is now available to assist an Asbestos Manager with the survey work and ensuing management plans the meet the requirements of section 13 of the Regulations.

Canterbury DHB's maintenance and engineering and construction project teams are experienced in demolition and construction projects and as part of that, dealing with asbestos and asbestos related risks. Following the Canterbury Earthquakes, we have appropriately managed the demolition of 30-odd buildings. We are also undertaking master planning processes at both Christchurch Hospital and Hillmorton campuses that will determine the future of several other legacy buildings.

We have not provided you with copies of all the asbestos registers and reports held. We are, however willing to consider providing you with an illustrative sample. If you would like to view an illustrative sample of the types of information held please identify by reference to specific campuses and we will, subject to any permitted redactions under the Act, provide these to you. We will likely need to consult with third party consultants and laboratories prior to release of information and reports relating to them.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support