



Planning and Funding
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11 March 2020

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt

Email: fyi-request-12429-f634f10a@requests.fyi.org.nz;

Dear Amy

RE Official information request CDHB 10287 and WCDHB 9405

We are writing to acknowledge your email received this morning requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB regarding Best practice: Archiving, Storage, Biobanking of Human Tissue for Diagnostic Purposes. Specifically:

- 1. I am writing to request a copy of the CDHB/WCDHB best practice protocol for the archiving, storage, or biobanking of human tissue for diagnostic purposes, whether they are formalin fixed, paraffin embedded or pathology slides, and the standards, legislation or scientific evidence which provides the basis for the CDHB/WCDHB protocol.**
- 2. Is the CDHB/WCDHB best practice protocol for the archiving, storage, or biobanking of human tissue for diagnostic purposes, whether they are formalin fixed, paraffin embedded or pathology slides, is a standard which is universally adopted by all NZ DHB's and medical laboratories, or does each DHB or medical laboratory determine their own best practice?**
- 3. Please explain the potential hazards of leaving formalin fixed, paraffin embedded or pathology slides in an unsecure, non-temperature regulated environment (say a on an employee's desk outside of the laboratory) for 2 months.**
- 4. Please provide me with the name of the independent agency or agencies which provides oversight for medical laboratories in NZ.**

We will consider your request against the provisions of the Official Information Act (see below) and advise you of our decision regarding the release of information within 20 working days (being the statutory timeframe provided within the Act.) Accordingly, we will notify you, no later than 8 April 2020, of our decision.

Your request is being handled by Kathleen Smitheram. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact either myself (details above) or Kathleen. (Kathleen.smitheram@cdhb.health.nz; Phone 364-4134). Please refer to the OIA number above when phoning or emailing.

If any additional factors come to light which are relevant to your request, please do not hesitate to contact us so that these can be taken into account.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Turp
Project Specialist

15 Decisions on requests

(1) Subject to this Act, the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation to whom a request is made in accordance with [section 12](#) or is transferred in accordance with [section 14](#) of this Act or [section 12](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case not later than 20 working days after the day on which the request is received by that department or Minister of the Crown or organisation,—

(1)(a) decide whether the request is to be granted and, if it is to be granted, in what manner and for what charge (if any); and

(1)(b) give or post to the person who made the request notice of the decision on the request

[If we are unable to make a decision on your request by the date noted above, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.]