

CORPORATE OFFICE

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7 April 2020

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt

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

Dear Ms Van Wey Lovatt

RE Official information request CDHB 10287 and WCDHB 9405

We refer to your email dated 11 March 2020 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.**

Please note that at this unprecedented time, Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB have diverted significant resources from across the organisations to support the COVID-19 response.

It is therefore necessary to extend the time required to make a decision on your request for information in accordance with section 15A of the Official Information Act.

This is because the information cannot reasonably be identified by the necessary people within 20 working days without interfering with our operations and also the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a response cannot be provided within the original timeframe.

As such, we expect that a decision will be made on your request and communicated to you by 30 May 2020.

If you do not agree with our decision to extend the response time on your request, you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz; or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support