

H20_21-45/OIA 2020/061

4 May 2020

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt

Email: fyi-request-12520-938bfc1d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Lovatt

Thank you for your request dated 23 March 2020 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding *RCPA policy*. You requested:

1. *What is your DHB's policy on second opinions requested by a third party who is a medical practitioner currently involved in the medical care of the patient from whom the pathological material was originally obtained?*
2. *In the event that your DHB deviates from the aforementioned RCPA policy, I request an explanation for why your DHB deviates from best practice.*

Please note, my request does not reflect the standard of care provided at your DHB, but is to ascertain whether there is consistent adherence to RCPA best practice amongst all NZ DHBs.

Please note that this is a combined response from Capital & Coast (CCDHB) and Hutt Valley District Health Boards (HVDHB) and that laboratory services for this region (CCDHB, HVDHB and Wairarapa DHB) have been contracted to Wellington SCL.

The information pertaining to your request is below.

Question 1:

What is your DHB's policy on second opinions requested by a third party who is a medical practitioner currently involved in the medical care of the patient from whom the pathological material was originally obtained?

Answer:

Wellington SCL follows the attached RCPA Policy 2/1999 for the 'Provision of second opinions with reference to morphological examination' (see attached document). In summary we would comply with any request for second opinion – either to provide slides from our files for the review by another pathologist, or by providing a second opinion review itself if a request is made to us.

Question 2:

In the event that your DHB deviates from the aforementioned RCPA policy, I request an explanation for why your DHB deviates from best practice.

Answer:

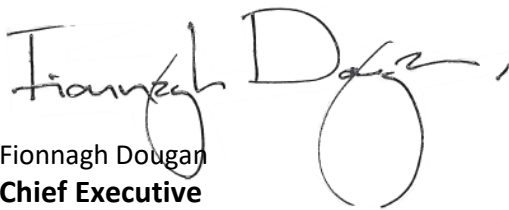
Wellington SCL does not deviate from the RCPA Policy 2/1999 for the 'Provision of second opinions with reference to morphological examination'.

Please note that due to staff redeployment and our current response to COVID-19 we are experiencing delays in responding to your request and apologise sincerely.

I trust this information fulfils your request.

You have the right to seek a review, under section 28(3) of the Act, by way of a complaint to the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fionnagh Dougan', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Fionnagh Dougan
Chief Executive

Capital & Coast and Hutt Valley District Health Boards