

29 April 2020

Amy Van Wey Lovatt  
Via Email: [fyi-request-12510-20c4336a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-12510-20c4336a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

**Response to a request for official information**

Dear Amy

Thank you for your request for official information received 23 March 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)<sup>1</sup>, followed by the necessary extension of time 22 April 2020, where you seek information regarding the Royal College of Pathologists Australasia (RCPA) *Provision of second opinions with particular reference to morphological examination* policy for second and subsequent opinion of pathology specimens.

- 1. I respectfully request 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.***

DHB response

We are unable to provide you an opinion on this matter as Medlab South, Nelson Marlborough (part of the SCL Group) are the contracted service to NMH.

- 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.***

DHB response

Medlab South, Nelson Marlborough which employs the pathologists that are contracted to the DHB, have their own processes which they follow relating to RCPA policy.

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or free phone 0800 802 602. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator [OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz). I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Bramley  
**Chief Executive**

cc: Ministry of Health via email: [SectorOIAs@moh.govt.nz](mailto:SectorOIAs@moh.govt.nz)

<sup>1</sup> Nelson Marlborough District Health Board