

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 the following information;

- 1. I am writing to request a copy of the your DHB's 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 your DHB's protocol.***
- 2. Is your DHB protocol for the archiving, storage, or biobanking of human tissue for diagnostic purposes, whether they are formalin fixed, paraffin embedded or pathology slides, based on a universally adopted standard within NZ or has your DHB determined its own policy.***
- 3. Please explain the potential hazards of leaving formalin fixed, paraffin embedded or pathology slides in an unsecure, non-temperature and non-humidity regulated environment for 2 months over a NZ summer: say a on an employee's desk which is open to the public and in a repurposed house adjacent to the hospital from mid December to late February.***

DHB response

This service is contracted by the DHB to Medlab South, Nelson Marlborough (part of the SCL Group). We are therefore unable to provide you with the information requested.

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: [SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz](mailto:SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz)

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