

11 May 2020

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt

By email: fyi-request – 12525-72a280bc@request.fyi.org.nz

Dear Amy

Re: Official Information Act Request

I refer to your Official Information Act request received on 22 March 2020 in which you specifically requested the following:

Request 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.

Request 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.

Request 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.

Request 4:

Please provide me with the name of the independent agency or agencies which provides oversight for your medical laboratory.

This service is contracted by South Canterbury DHB to Medlab South (Part of the Southern Community Laboratories Group). We are therefore unable to provide you with the information requested.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Office can be contacted on 0800 802 602 or on-line at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>

Kind regards



Dawne Tuite
Administrator
SC District Health Board