

Nigel Gray

By email: fyi-request-12827-83ab6f33@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202003219

Dear Mr Gray

Partial transfer of request for official information to all New Zealand District Health Boards

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 12 May 2020 for:

“Given that Electroconvulsive Treatment has been used as a method of torture historically in New Zealand, can you please inform me of the precise number of these devices in NZ hospitals in present time?”

Given that a senior psychiatrist, Dr Selwyn Leeks, thoroughly trained and qualified by NZ Govt standards, used one of these devices to torture the genitalia of young boys, and that use of this device has also been declared and categorized as a form of torture, on what evidence (not basis but evidence and testing) is it continued as "therapy" in New Zealand?”

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) does not hold the information you have requested in part one of your request. The Ministry has been advised that part one of your request is more closely associated with the functions of each of the 20 New Zealand district health boards (DHBs) respectively.

As a result, I have decided to transfer part one of your request to each New Zealand DHB under section 14 of the Act. You can expect a response from each DHB in due course.

The Ministry will respond separately to part two of your request. You can expect a response to your request in due course.

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to transfer your request for information.

Yours sincerely



Zoe Royden
Acting Manager OIA Services
Office of the Director-General