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Ref: H201504531

Dear Jennifer Katherine Shields

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 24 September 2015 under the Official Information Act 1982 for additional information about gender reassignment surgery. This request was in response to the recent release of information to A. D. Tait.

I can confirm that there is no other correspondence between the Ministry and overseas providers with regard to sending patients overseas for Male-to-Female gender reassignment surgery. It is a District Health Board (DHB) specialist responsibility to identify providers for patients whom they refer overseas, not a Ministry responsibility. This point is emphasised in Ailsa Jacobson's email of 22 July 2015, which was part of the recent information release to A. D. Tait.

With regard to the correspondence with one provider in Australia, this occurred because the Ministry was alerted to the existence of this service and we requested some basic information from the provider about Male-to-Female and Female-to-Male surgery. Further interaction with this potential provider will come from DHB specialists.

We are hoping that DHB specialists will agree a preferred overseas provider (or providers) for Male-to-Female surgery before the end of the year. We do not hold any correspondence about this within the Ministry.

With regard to the emails withheld from the release to A. D. Tait, they contain the free and frank expression of opinions and do not provide any further relevant information.

I trust this information fulfils your request.

Yours sincerely



Dr Don Mackie
Chief Medical Officer
Clinical Leadership, Protection & Regulation