



27 July 2017
Ref. 11411

Karyn Black
Via email to: fyi-request-6151-c6498d35@requests.fyi.org.nz

**Mental Health & Addictions
Services**

Waiora Waikato Hospital Campus
Level 1, Hockin Building
Hague Road
Private Bag 3200
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand

Ph: 07 834 3607

Dear Ms Black

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request for information of 7 July 2017:

1. *Does “Henry Rongomau Bennett” mental health inpatient unit currently have security cameras operating with the hospital area?*

I am defining hospital area as including: the reception area, entrance and exit points, main patient leisure areas, occupational therapy spaces, seclusion rooms, patient corridors, intensive care or high dependency areas, private/patient outside garden spaces. This excludes any cameras operating outside of the inpatient unit treatment areas such as car parks, public hospital grounds.

2. *If the inpatient unit does have cameras operating may you please provide the following information:*

When were the cameras installed?

Where are the cameras located?

How many cameras are operating?

“Seclusion, Restraint, and Assault” reporting data for one year prior to the installation of any security cameras. For example, if cameras were installed June 2010, I request Seclusion, Restraint and Assault reporting data for the period from June 2009 – June 2010.

“Seclusion, Restraint, and Assault” reporting data for one year after the installation of any security cameras. For example, if cameras were installed June 2010, I request Seclusion, Restraint and Assault reporting data for the period from June 2010 – June 2011.

Security cameras have been in use for many years across the Waikato Hospital campus, including the Henry Rongomau Bennett Centre. The cameras are a security measure, primarily to ensure the safety of our service users and patients, staff and property. As such the cameras are situated in areas of access and exit to hospital facilities and wards.

The cameras are not used for “surveillance” or monitoring of clinical activities and are not routinely in use in these areas.



Whilst I am able to confirm that there are security cameras in use I am not able to provide information relating to number or locations of the cameras. Declaring the specific location of security cameras would be counterintuitive to the purpose of the cameras and whilst the cameras are not overt, this information is withheld on the basis of Sections 18(a) and 6(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 which enables information to be withheld if its release would be likely to endanger the safety of a person or persons.

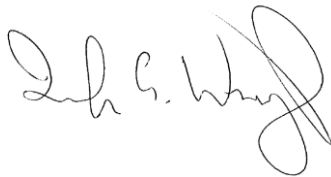
In relation to seclusion and security cameras there is unlikely to be any correlation in the use of cameras and seclusion as there are no cameras in this area of the inpatient facility. Information is available publically on the use of seclusion in mental health facilities as part of the reporting of the Director of Mental Health and can be accessed here: [Mental health and addictions | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

Waikato DHB Mental Health and Addictions Service is committed to the reduction of the use of seclusion in our inpatient facilities and continues to work toward this goal.

I hope this information is helpful. You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review the decision to withhold the information. The Ombudsman's postal address is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsmen
P O Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek G. Wright', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Derek G Wright
Executive Director
Mental Health and Addictions Services

