

26 October 2017

Karyn Black

Email: fyi-request-6617-421bb0e7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Miss Black

Re: Official Information Act Request – Information pertaining to the use of security cameras in mental health inpatient units

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) received 2 October 2017 with regard to the use of security cameras in mental health inpatient units.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services to assist your understanding.

The Waitemata DHB Specialist Mental Health and Addiction Service serves a population of more than 615,000 within the Waitemata district and is the largest service in the country by volume of service-users seen.

The Waitemata DHB Adult Mental Health Services operate community mental health care from three community hubs and two satellite teams, an assessment service associated with the Emergency Department at North Shore Hospital and two acute adult mental health inpatient units.

He Puna Waiora is the acute inpatient unit on the North Shore Hospital site and Waiatarau is on the Waitakere Hospital site. Both Waiatarau and He Puna Waiora have security cameras.

Responses to your questions are provided below.

1. The purpose for installing security cameras in the inpatient units.

As per our previous response to you under the Official Information Act of 29 August 2017, there are no security cameras inside the therapeutic areas, leisure spaces or bedroom areas of our inpatient units in the interests of protecting privacy.

The security cameras are mainly mounted on the outside of the inpatient units and are primarily focused on who is entering and leaving the buildings in the interests of providing security for those staying in the units, visitors and staff.

2. How you measure that the security cameras are addressing their initial purpose (as outlined in answer to question 1)

Please refer to answer above.

3. All policy documents relating to the use of security cameras in the inpatient units

Waitemata DHB's use of security cameras around our mental health inpatient units complies with the requirements of the Privacy Act.

I trust this information will satisfy your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pam Lightbown', enclosed in a circular scribble.

Pam Lightbown
General Manager, Specialist Mental Health & Addictions Services