

11 May 2018

OIA: 2018/067

Mx Jem Traylen

fyi-request-7654-d7282d8d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mx Traylen

Request for Information under the Official Information Act

Thank you for your request for official information received by Capital & Coast District Health Board (CCDHB) on 18 April 2018, seeking the following information under the Official Information Act (1982).

Re: Reasons for not providing breast prosthetic services to transwomen.

"In a recent OIA response, you stated that your policy is that breast prosthetic services are only provided to transwomen in the context of cancer treatment but not for the purposes of gender reassignment.

What are your reasons for not providing such access for gender reassignment?"

CCDHB has only one breast surgeon and she is not trained in gender reassignment per se. The primary objective in this hospital for providing breast surgery is cancer surgery and reconstruction. Prosthetics for males to females are technically challenging due to differences in anatomical structures of the chest and require surgeons skilled in gender reassignment for that reason.

Gender reassignment requires an infrastructure of which the surgeon is a small part. They require psychology/endocrinology and specialist follow up. There is one surgeon in New Zealand trained in gender reassignment, who is based in Auckland.

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to seek a review or to ask the Ombudsman to review the information that has been provided to you.

Yours faithfully



Delwyn Hunter

Executive Director Operations

Surgery, Women & Children's Directorate