

**Canterbury**  
District Health Board  
Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Planning and Funding  
P O Box 1600,  
CHRISTCHURCH

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23 May 2018

Gloria Fraser

Email: [fyi-request-7891-42ec065e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7891-42ec065e@requests.fyi.org.nz);

Dear Gloria

**RE Official information request CDHB 9864**

We are writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 22 May 2018 and received in our office this morning, requesting the following information under section 12 of the Official Information Act (the 'Act') from Canterbury DHB.

1. **Could you please advise whether the following gender-affirming healthcare services are funded by the Canterbury District Health Board for transgender patients, and whether the services are currently available:**
  - a. Hormone therapy, b. Mastectomy, c. Hysterectomy, d. Orchidectomy, e. Facial hair removal, f. Breast augmentation, g. Voice training
2. **Could you please provide information about the process of accessing those services that are available?**
  - a. Specifically, is an assessment by a mental health professional required in order to access gender-affirming healthcare services? If so, which services? b. In the case of hormone therapy, can primary health providers prescribe hormones, or does this have to be initially approved by an endocrinologist? c. Is any period of real life experience required to access surgery?
3. **Finally, could you please advise what the process is if transgender patients require one of the above services, but the Canterbury District Health Board does not offer this service? Does the Canterbury District Health Board currently fund patients to travel to other areas to access this healthcare?**

We will consider your request against the provisions of the Official Information Act (see below) and advise you of our decision regarding the release of information within 20 working days (being the statutory timeframe provided within the Act.)

Accordingly, we will notify you, no later than 21 June 2018, of our decision.

Your request is being handled by Kathleen Smitheram. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact either myself (details above) or Kathleen. ([Kathleen.smitheram@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Kathleen.smitheram@cdhb.health.nz)) Phone 03 364 4134). Please refer to the OIA number above when phoning or emailing.

If any additional factors come to light which are relevant to your request, please do not hesitate to contact us so that these can be taken into account.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Turp  
Project Specialist

15 Decisions on requests

(1) Subject to this Act, the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation to whom a request is made in accordance with [section 12](#) or is transferred in accordance with [section 14](#) of this Act or [section 12](#) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case not later than 20 working days after the day on which the request is received by that department or Minister of the Crown or organisation,—

(1)(a) decide whether the request is to be granted and, if it is to be granted, in what manner and for what charge (if any); and

(1)(b) give or post to the person who made the request notice of the decision on the request

[If we are unable to make a decision on your request by the date noted above, we will notify you of an extension of that timeframe.]