

3 May 2022

I am responding to your official information Act request of 21 February, requesting the following information.

- 1. All memorandum, reports, emails, or any other documents held by Auckland District Health Board relating to formaldehyde exposure at Anatomic Pathology Service at Mt Wellington between January 2020 to YTD.**
- 2. A copy of any Provisional improvement notices (PIN) issued to Auckland DHB relating to the Anatomic Pathology Service at Mt Wellington, in the last five years between January 2017 to February 2022.**

Response

As our response was likely to be impacted upon by s18(f) OIA – substantial collation - we attempted to review your request with you 24 and 25 February, liaised with you on 22 March, and then sent a rescoped request to you on 31 March. You have not confirmed this rescoped request, being:

- 1. All internal correspondence held by Auckland District Health Board at Anatomic Pathology Service at Mt Wellington between 1 January 2020 to 22 March 2021 relating to reviewed WorkSafe standards for formaldehyde exposure, including emails and texts.**
- 2. Any reports of harm suffered as a result of formaldehyde exposure during the dates of 1) above**
- 3. A copy of any Provisional improvement notices (PIN) issued to Auckland DHB relating to the Anatomic Pathology Service at Mt Wellington, in the last five years between January 2017 to February 2022.**

- 1. All internal correspondence held by Auckland District Health Board at Anatomic Pathology Service at Mt Wellington between 1 January 2020 to 22 March 2021 relating to reviewed WorkSafe standards for formaldehyde exposure, including emails and texts.**

The Official Information Act requires that we advise you of our decision on your request no later than 20 working days after the day we received your request, or after clarification is agreed. We advised you 14 April that we had not agreed any alternative request and wrote to notify you that we had extended the time for a reply until 3 May 2022, being 10 working days from 18 April. We also advised you 14 April that we had confirmed with the Anatomic Pathology Service as to the size of the collation task. In our letter of 14 April we advised that should we not hear from you by April 26 we will provide that portion of your request that does not require substantial collation and decline the balance citing s18(f) OIA. There is therefore no information to provide in response to Question 1.

2. Any reports of harm suffered as a result of formaldehyde exposure during the dates of 1) above

There are no reports of harm from between the dates requested.

3. A copy of any Provisional improvement notices (PIN) issued to Auckland DHB relating to the Anatomic Pathology Service at Mt Wellington, in the last five years between January 2017 to February 2022

The requested information is attached. We have redacted some of this information. These are work mobile phone numbers and personal work emails and are redacted under s 9(2) (a) of the Official Information Act, because this information is not generally available or able to be inferred.

The attachments include two improvement notices issued by WorkSafe and three PINs issued by an Auckland DHB Health and Safety representative.

For context, we take our obligations to keep our people safe very seriously and work openly and transparently with WorkSafe, as the regulator, to ensure we are compliant with all the appropriate guidelines and standards. The improvement notices have been resolved and WorkSafe confirmed to us that they had viewed the controls we had in place for formaldehyde monitoring and they were appropriate.

The PINS raised by the Health and Safety Representative have also been resolved and we can confirm the majority of the recommendations made in the July 2021 IANZ report referenced in the PINs have been implemented. IANZ has issued a provisional clearance based on the work we've carried out and the plans we have in place to make continual improvements. This includes some interim measures such as moving work areas to other locations while we progress longer-term plans to permanently expand the facility.

I trust that the information we have been able to provide is helpful.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under s 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 80w2 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive

Encl:

1. Attachment 1. APS- Improvement Notice – RPE Redacted
2. Attachment 2. APS- Improvement Notice- LVS Redacted
3. Attachment 3. HSR-PIN- APS#2 - GRWM section 7_Redacted
4. Attachment 4. HSR-PIN- APS#3 - GRWM section 28_Redacted
5. Attachment 5. HSR-PIN- APS#4 - GRWM section 34_Redacted
6. Attachment 6. HSR-PIN- APS#5 HWSA section 36_Redacted