

8 July 2022

[REDACTED]

By email [REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

**Re: Official Information Request – Transplant Lists and Ethics
Committee Information – Auckland DHB Ref. 20220530-1235**

I refer to your official information request received on 30 May 2022, seeking the following information:

I am a LLB(Hons) / BA student in my fourth year at the University of Auckland, and I would like to write a research paper on the de-prioritisation of patients who are unvaccinated for covid-19 on transplant lists.

Due particularly:

- 1. Whether patients in Auckland have been disqualified from receiving transplants for reasons of being unvaccinated for covid-19 or have been placed lower on transplant lists for this reason.**
- 2. The minutes from any Ethics Committee or other group that discussed this issue.**

Response

1. Whether patients in Auckland have been disqualified from receiving transplants for reasons of being unvaccinated for covid-19 or have been placed lower on transplant lists for this reason.

The heart and lung transplant services required all potential recipients to have a COVID vaccination. There was one patient on the active waiting list who was stood down while we worked through the issue. That patient went on to be vaccinated, was re-listed and has since been transplanted. This was the only impact on patients across transplant services we offer. Please note that that if there is a COVID positive donor we would not transplant those organs into an unvaccinated recipient. This already happens for donors with Hepatitis B and HIV.

2. The minutes from any Ethics Committee or other group that discussed this issue.

The information you have requested is attached in Attachments 1 - 4.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Ngā mihi,



Dr Michael Shepherd

Interim District Director

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- Encl.**
1. Attachment 1. CEAG Minutes 15 October 2021 redacted
 2. Attachment 2 Is it Ethical to Mandate COVID Vaccination
 3. Attachment 3. Letter to Peter Ruygrok redacted
 4. Attachment 4. Transplant Board 11 Nov 2021.docx



Te Whatu Ora

Health New Zealand

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

New Zealand Government

