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12 January 2021

9(2)(a)

**RE Official information request CDHB 10500**

I refer to your email dated 6 December 2020, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- **Information regarding the number of formal complaints about surgical equipment mistakenly being left behind in patients in the last three years, which went to the Health and Disability Commissioner or resulted in a review of hospital policy.**
- **Can this information be broken down by year, what the item was, how long it was mistakenly left in the patient for, when it was removed and the effect(s) on the patient.**

We do not hold specific data regarding the number of formal complaints about surgical equipment mistakenly being left behind in patients over the last three years in a central electronic data system. To provide this information would entail substantial time, resource and collation. We are therefore declining your request pursuant to section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *“that the information request cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.”*

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Ralph La Salle  
**Acting Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**