

5 March 2019

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**RE Official information request CDHB 9970a**

I refer to your email dated 10 January 2019 seeking clarification on previous our response to your earlier request under the Official Information Act regarding surgical insertion and removal of mesh procedures as follows:

**Re: Question 5 - Can you please clarify how many surgeons (in total) in the Urology department will undertake mesh removal procedures?**

Canterbury DHB currently has three urologists who are credentialed for mesh mid urethral sling insertion, one gynaecologist who is credentialed and one gynaecologist in the process of being credentialed. The Canterbury DHB does not have any Urogynaecologists.

**1. Question 8 - Can you please clarify in total how many surgeons you have at your DHB who are undertaking major or 2<sup>nd</sup>/subsequent adjustment?**

Canterbury DHB has sought advice from the Ministry of Health clarifying the requirement for credentialing for mesh removal surgery.

At this stage the Ministry does not require a credentialing process for mesh removal and as such Canterbury DHB does not have such a process.

Our credentialing process is related to mesh insertion only. However, we confirm that we have two urologists and one gynaecologist who are competent to undertake major mesh removal procedures and do perform these procedures at our facilities when required."

I apologise for the time taken to respond to you follow up request seeking clarification on this issue. The Canterbury DHB has up to 70 Official Information Act requests being processed at any given time. When a request (such as this one) requires senior clinical input, we work hard to respect the clinicians' clinical priorities when seeking their assistance.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**