

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165
carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz

24 April 2019

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10070

I refer to your email dated 6 March 2019 to the Ministry of Health which was subsequently transferred to our office on 22 March 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

- **I would like a detailed breakdown of any and all incidents relating to equipment not being properly sterilised by District Health Boards in 2018 and 2019.**

There has been one incident of this nature recorded by Canterbury DHB staff in 2018 and 2019. This occurred on 13 February 2019.

The incident involved surgical telescopes (non-hollow) that had been cleaned, dried and packed for sterilisation in a Sterrad steriliser as is routine for this kind of instrument. However, the cycle of gas within the steriliser (hydrogen peroxide a low temperature gas plasma) was automatically prematurely aborted due to malfunction of the machine; the packs were then removed from the machine and accidentally issued to Operating Theatre without further processing.

There were six scopes issued to the Operating Theatre: two were used as part of surgery for two patients and the remaining four were located prior to use by the instrument tracking system and returned to the sterile services department. Open disclosure occurred for the patients involved with an apology from the Canterbury DHB. It was established that there was no physical harm (or ongoing risk) for the patients as a result. A serious event investigation is currently underway.

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



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support