

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

CORPORATE OFFICE

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RE Official information request CDHB 9997

We refer to your email dated 10 December 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding how widely used fax machines are in New Zealand's public health system. Specifically:

- 1. the number of fax machines owned by the DHB;**
There are approximately 560 fax lines.
- 2. the number of fax machines purchased in the 2017/18 financial year, and the cost of the same;**
The CDHB does not hold this information as in addition to faxes we have computers and printing machines with facing capability.
- 3. whether facsimile are regularly used in your DHB's hospitals, and if so, what for (we seek only a general description of the clinical, or administrative processes that rely on sending or receiving facsimile on a day-to-day basis); and**
The fax machines are primarily used for receiving/sending prescriptions, Laboratory Results, internal and external referrals, communication with community agencies and other hospitals. There are approximately 90,000 fax transactions per month. Large number of departments send 10+ faxes a day. Handful of departments send/receive more than 100 per day [pharmacy and labs]
- 4. any advice, analysis or planning documents in the last 12 months about phasing facsimile out by upgrading to more modern IT systems.**
Analysis was undertaken in 2016 and recommendations have been made to remove low volume machines and working alongside departments to find alternatives to fax usage which has led to purchases of multifunction machines

In relation to photocopiers and multifunction machines, please only consider these a fax machine for the purpose of this request where the machine is actually connected to a phone line.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Macfarlane', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melissa Macfarlane
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support