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11 July 2019

s9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10143

I refer to your email dated 7 July 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding vaccine strain measles transmission among siblings. Specifically:

For your interest, as your response in the OIA (CDHB 10061aa) that I received from your office recently indicated, that this was not possible.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2563426> Transmission of measles virus (vaccine strain, Schwarz) from one sibling to another sibling.

Can you categorically prove that measles strain virus has not been transmitted to anyone by the 13 measles vaccine strain cases that were confirmed in the Canterbury measles outbreak, or in fact, in any other of the current measles outbreaks in New Zealand?

I note that the information referenced in the link above is from a 1989 article while the information referenced in our recent response is 2018. (*"No transmission of measles vaccine virus from a vaccinee to a contact has ever been documented"* (Plotkin's Vaccine 7th edition 2018 p 607 and p 593).

For the Official Information Act to apply the information requested must be held by the agency concerned. There is no obligation on the agency to form an opinion or create information to answer a request. Consequently the Official Information Act does not require an agency to provide commentary or an explanation around information requested.

We are therefore declining to form an opinion or create information to answer your request.

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