



CORPORATE OFFICE

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13 May 2022

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10854 & WCDHB 9686

I refer to your email dated 11 March 2022 to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently transferred to us on 12 April 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- **Aggregated staff investigations of assaults on patients ie staff fired, investigated and resigning before being fired / criminal charges being laid / withdrawn by victim? Time frame for request clarified as: "All DHB records"**

Staff investigations and disciplinary processes are not recorded in a central electronic database and, therefore, the request would require an individual audit of each individual investigation. This would entail a substantial amount of time and resource.

Referrals to the Police of potentially criminal matters are not centrally tracked or held on an employee's file and we do not hold information about charges that have been subsequently withdrawn by Police.

We are therefore declining your request pursuant to the following sections of the Official Information Act.

- Section 18(f) i.e. *"...the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research."*
and
- Section 18(g) i.e. *"...the information requested is not held by the Canterbury DHB or the West Coast DHB."*

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; 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 and West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

Ralph La Salle
Senior Manager, OIAs
Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB