

**CORPORATE OFFICE**

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31 May 2022

9(2)(a)

**RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10875**

I refer to your email dated 17 May 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding gender affirming surgeries. Specifically:

1. **How many gender-affirming surgeries have been undertaken in the past ten years through CDHB?**
  - a. **Could this please be separated by year?**
  - b. **Could this also be broken down by type of gender-affirming surgery? (E.g. chest surgery, (chest reconstruction to masculine) or chest surgery (breast augmentation), hysterectomy, oophorectomy, or orchidectomy.)**

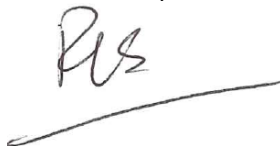
We do not hold this information in an easily retrievable electronic system. While some of the surgeries mentioned are coded we do not identify if a procedure is carried out as part of gender affirming surgery and would have to search individual patient clinical notes. This would take a substantial amount of time and resource.

We are therefore declining your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

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](http://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 after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Ralph La Salle  
**Senior Manager, OIAs**  
**Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB**