

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

CORPORATE OFFICE

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4 December 2018

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RE Official information request CDHB 9977

We refer to your email dated 23 November 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

- **Does the DHB record the amount of radioactive waste being produced/as a by-product of operating radiology/diagnostic machines including but not exclusive to X-rays, PET and CT scans and radiation therapy?**
- **How much radioactive waste is being produced at the DHB per year?**
- **How and where is this radioactive waste disposed of?**

Radioactive waste is governed by the Radiation Safety Act 2016. Schedule 2 of the Act contains an extensive list of substances and radioactivity limits below which the Act does not apply.

Radioactive by-products of all diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in Canterbury DHB (including the imaging and therapy procedures referred to) are held on-site in secure storage until they decay to below these limits. Approximately 80 bags of biohazard waste and other items that contain or may contain radioactive products are produced each year. There are currently 150 bags or other items in storage.

Once they have decayed to below the limits after several months (and are checked) the material is then no longer within the scope of the Radiation Safety Act. At this time we therefore no longer consider it radioactive waste and it is disposed of along with other clinical waste.

The Canterbury DHB therefore disposes of no radioactive waste.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support