



## CORPORATE OFFICE

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9(2)(a)

### RE Official information request CDHB 10307, WCDHB 9424 and SCDHB

We refer to your email dated 3 May 2020 requesting the following information from Canterbury DHB under the Official Information Act.

Community and Public Health are a division of the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB), but serve as the Public Health Unit (PHU) for the South Canterbury District Health Board (SCDHB) and the West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB). We are therefore responding for all three DHBs.

#### Note:

\*Our responses for Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB below only relate to tests that we have received at the Canterbury Health laboratories. (And South Canterbury DHB for Question 1).

**Under the Official Information Act 1982 can I please be provided with the following information, dating back to the start of February (or alternatively the date when the first Covid-19 swab test was carried out in the Community and Public Health region).**

1. How many tests for Covid-19 have been carried out (ie swabs or other tests initiated) in your Public Health Unit area (ie the Community and Public Health region - CPH in future references)?

#### Canterbury DHB

There have been 14,870 tests done on individuals domiciled in the Canterbury DHB region between 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (inclusive)

#### West Coast DHB

There have been 847 tests done on individuals domiciled in the West Coast DHB district between 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (inclusive)

#### South Canterbury DHB

There have been 1,978 tests done on individuals domiciled in the South Canterbury DHB region between 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (inclusive).

All tests have been processed once they have been received by Canterbury Health Laboratories.

**2. How many of these tests within the CPU region have been discarded / not completed by a lab (whether Canterbury Health Labs or another)?**

**Canterbury DHB**

37 tests have not been processed once they have been received by the laboratory (see breakdown in response to question four).

**West Coast DHB**

One test was not processed once it had been received by the laboratory (see response to question 4).

**South Canterbury DHB (Medlab Timaru)**

Four tests have not been processed once they have been received by the laboratory (see breakdown in response to question four).

**3. Can you please specify how many tests were not processed because of a decision made by a CPU Medical Officer of Health, and how many were decided by someone else e.g. at the lab?**

**Canterbury DHB**

Two requests were not processed after consultation between the laboratory and the Community Based Assessment Centres (CBAC) team that did the sampling. One request was not processed after the requesting clinician cancelled the test request.

**West Coast DHB**

No laboratory tests have been rejected (excluding the one sample referred to in question 2 that was due to sample unlabelling).

**South Canterbury DHB (Medlab Timaru)**

No laboratory tests have been rejected (excluding one sample referred to in question 2 that was due to sample mis or unlabelling).

**4. Can these rejected / discarded tests please be broken down into the reasons given for rejecting the test e.g. not meeting the case definition (and if so in what way e.g. lack of relevant travel history, insufficient symptoms etc), or some other reason e.g. swab faulty, or not carried out correctly etc.**

Can this information please be broken down on a weekly basis, e.g.

**Week 1: XX tests carried out, X tests discarded at the decision of a Medical officer of health. Of these, X were due to lack of relevant travel history, x due to incorrect or no symptoms, x due to lack of contact with confirmed case, x due to faulty swab**

**Week 2: XX tests carried out, X tests discarded. Of these, X were due to lack of relevant travel history, x due to incorrect or no symptoms, x due to lack of contact with confirmed case etc.**

**Canterbury DHB**

23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March

1 cancelled by ordering clinician

2 not processed after discussion with CBAC staff

30<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> April

2 not processed due to unlabelling – repeat swabs were requested

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April

5 not processed due to unlabelling – repeat swabs were requested

13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April

1 not processed due to unlabelling – repeat swab was requested

(CDHB continues overleaf)

20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April

1 not processed due to technical issues in the laboratory – repeat swab requested  
5 not processed due to unlabelling – repeat swabs were requested

27<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> May

3 not processed due to unlabelling – repeat swabs were requested  
6 not processed due to sample leaking in transit and being unsuitable for processing

4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May

4 not processed due to unlabelling – repeat swabs were requested  
7 not processed due to sample leaking in transit and being unsuitable for processing

**West Coast DHB**

4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

One not processed due to unlabelling – repeat swab was requested

**South Canterbury DHB (MedLab Timaru)**

27<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> May

1 not processed due to incomplete labelling – repeat swabs were requested

4<sup>th</sup> May - 10<sup>th</sup> May

2 not processed due to mislabelled specimens – repeat swabs were requested  
1 not processed due to unlabelled – repeat swabs were requested

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 West Coast DHB and South Canterbury DHB websites after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**