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2 July 2019

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10128

I refer to your email dated 19 June 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

- 1. The total number of girls aged 11 or 12 who presented to hospital with temporary blindness in the last five years, categorised by age and year;**

Note: Our coding system does not identify by 'presentation' only by admission/discharge.

There were no girls aged 11 or 12 who were admitted to our hospitals with temporary blindness over the past five years.

There may have been presentations to the Emergency Department that may have had that condition however our systems don't record it at that level of detail and therefore we cannot respond without a manual search of individual clinical records. We are therefore declining to do this under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act i.e. "...the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research." Most children who arrive at the Emergency Department are admitted to the Child Acute Assessment unit and would be covered in the figures for number of admissions, henceforth it would be reasonable to estimate the figure would be zero also.

- 2. The total number of girls aged 11 or 12 who were diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome in the last five years, categorised by age and year;**

Note: We do not generally hold figures on number of patients "diagnosed" with conditions.

However, our records indicate that there were three girls within the age range and time frame requested who were admitted over the last five years with symptoms of 'malaise and fatigue'.

- 3. Any report, briefing document, investigation, notes, email or other document held by the DHB related to the above. This includes, but is not limited to, any document that elaborates on their condition or any wider investigation or inquiry looking into their condition.**
- 4. Any other information that falls within the spirit of this request, which is not specifically mentioned above.**

Any information related to these three girls would be held in their clinical records and it would be a breach of their privacy to provide it to you. We are therefore declining a response to questions 3 and 4 under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act i.e. "...to protect the privacy of natural persons, including those deceased".

If you disagree with our decision to withhold information you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision from 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 after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support