

30 June 2020

[REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information received 2 June 2020 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹ where you seek the following information:

- 1. I respectfully request that your DHB make ALL of your DHB policies, protocols and best practice documents publicly available.***

NMH response: The DHB does not interpret a request to proactively publish all organisational policies, procedures, protocols, and clinical guidelines on our public website as a request for official information held by NMH and, as such, declines to respond under section 12(2) ‘*the official information requested shall be specified with due particularity in the request*’.

The intent of the creation of these controlled documents, alongside the necessary and ongoing reviewing and updating, of which includes alignment with external professional standards and legislation, is for internal reference and guidance rather than to inform the general public.

As such, we do not consider there is public interest in the on-going public release of in excess of 600 DHB operational policies, procedures and guidelines, including clinical guidelines, on the internet.

NMH best practice is to publish all operational documents in one centralised location on the intranet for ease of access by our employees whom, in the course of their work, have an appreciation of the appropriate context to assure accurate interpretation.

Requests for specific policies or on a topic of interest where documents in scope can be readily identified are welcomed.

- 2. Is your DHB laboratory and radiology departments, or the agencies your DHB has contract out pathology and radiology services, IANZ accredited?***

NMH response: Yes, service providers for any contracted laboratory and radiology service are required to be IANZ accredited.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

- 3. In the event that your DHB, or the agencies your DHB has contracted out pathology and radiology services, is IANZ accredited, I respectfully request ALL of the documentation submitted to IANZ for accreditation by your DHB (or contracted agencies) be made publicly available upon your DHB website (or as a link to your contracted agencies website).**

NMH response: The DHB does not interpret a request to proactively publish all documentation provided, in good faith, by a DHB contracted provider to their accreditation agency as a request for official information held by NMH and, as such, declines to respond under section 12(2) 'the official information requested shall be specified with due particularity in the request'.

The evidence and reference material provided to a certification agency toward accreditation processes is substantial and has relevance to that agency for that purpose. This documentation is not prepared to inform the public on a specific issue, and NMH considers the only aspect of accreditation that would be of public interest is whether or not certification has been granted.

As such, we do not consider there is public interest in the on-going public release of documentation which has been exclusively compiled to comply with the professional requirements of an accreditation agency.

Accreditation status is available on the IANZ site <https://www.ianz.govt.nz/directory/>

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIRequest@nmdhb.govt.nz. I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P Bramley', written in a cursive style.

Dr Peter Bramley
Chief Executive