



# *West Coast District Health Board*

---

## *Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini*

Corporate Office  
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400  
Fax 03 769-7791

21 February 2019

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### **RE Official information request WCDHB 9271**

We refer to your email dated 17 January 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding:

**All documents and communications provided to, and created by, West Coast District Health Board staff or entities, relating to incidents involving insect, vermin or other pest infestation (referred to herein as “infestations”) in DHB facilities or properties for the period of five years to the end of the 2018 calendar year.**

**These should include, but are not limited to:**

- **A document containing an overall breakdown for the above time period, in Microsoft Excel table format, of infestation incidents; including date, facility(s), type of creature(s), and cost to remedy.**
- **Records, documents and communications of any and all complaints made about infestations by members of the public, members of staff, or other parties.**
- **The total number of infestation complaints received, broken down by year for the above time period.**
- **The total amount spent on infestation remedies, broken down by year, for the above time period.**
- **Email or other messaging correspondence relating to infestations for that time period.**
- **Any relevant commentary from a representative.**

The West Coast DHB conducts a preventative pest control programme which costs approximately NZ\$12,000.00 per annum. The information requested is not routinely collected and we do not maintain a searchable information database that might contain dates or the nature of any infestations, nor a record of correspondences of specific infestation events or related complaints. For this reason, we are declining to provide records, documents or correspondences under Section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act; *that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.*

We note anecdotally however, that no major infestations have been reported for the last five-year period. Where evidence of a pest is observed, a single treatment with spray or gas is usually all that is required. At no time in the past five-year period has an infestation required evacuation of patients from West Coast DHB facilities or inhibited process, nor has control of pests observed required demolition, construction or alterations.

West Coast DHB does maintain a routine proactive pest control and prevention programme at our hospitals (through use of bait stations, and periodic spraying of potential risk areas as a preventative),

which is undertaken by a private professional pest controller. The cost for this service for year ended 30 June for each year over the past five years is as follows:

- 30/6/14 \$11,641.00
- 30/6/15 \$12,200.00
- 30/6/16 \$12,169.13
- 30/6/17 \$12,744.80
- 30/6/18 \$12,023.17

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 West Coast 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**