



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth 7840

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19 November 2020

9(2)(a)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE Official Information Act Request WCDHB 9493

I refer to your email dated 2 November 2020 to the Ministry of Health, which they subsequently transferred to us on 13 November 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically

- *The amount paid for intraocular lenses, the type of intraocular lenses purchased and the volume ordered per year for the last five years.*
- *The amount paid for viscoelastics, surgical blades and sutures for cataract surgery.*

Response

West Coast DHB does not directly purchase any intraocular lenses, nor viscoelastics, surgical blades and sutures for cataract surgery, and has never done so. Cataract and other intraocular surgery for West Coast residents is out-sourced to private specialist ophthalmology providers, and is undertaken in other locations outside our District. These surgeries are funded at a block amount paid per procedure, inclusive of any input costs such as those you have enquired about, that may be incurred by the providers to deliver the surgery.

Consequently, we do not hold any information at all relating to the specific costs or volumes by type of lenses and inputs about which you have enquired. We therefore decline to provide additional information at the detailed level of specificity you have requested under Section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act i.e. “... *that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.*”

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by 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 West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

Ralph La Salle
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support