



# West Coast District Health Board

## Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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4 February 2021

9(2)(a)

### RE Official information request WCDHB 9513

I refer to your email dated 6 January 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- ***The total number of body part items returned to patients by the DHB during the calendar years of 2020, 2019, and 2018, broken down by the specific type of body part (including but not limited to, body tissue, bones, organs, placentas/products of conception) returned each year.***

West Coast DHB does not keep a central record of the number of various body parts and tissues (including but not limited to, body tissue, bones, organs, placentas/products of conception) that have been returned to patients. The only record of such information is held in the individual records and clinical notes of the patients concerned.

There are approximately 11,500 patients seen through our emergency department and 7,500 patients discharged from our inpatient services every year, and each individual's clinical notes for each year would need to be manually reviewed and researched to determine the information you have requested. We are therefore declining to provide a response to your request pursuant to Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *"that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research."*

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](http://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