



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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28 April 2021

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9539

I refer to your email dated 7 April 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- 1. How many intersex children have had genital surgery within their first year of life?**
(Could I please have this from 2016 to 2021, broken down into the number each year and the overall number for the past five years. Could I also request whether or not the surgery was medically necessary or whether it was cosmetic, the gender of child as recorded on their birth certificate and the total cost per year of the surgeries).

West Coast DHB has not undertaken any genital surgery on intersex children (those born with characteristics of both sexes) within their first year of life between 2016 and 2021. Such surgery is not provided at our hospital facilities.

- 2. How many referrals have been made to other DHBs for intersex babies in their first year of life looking for the surgery in other DHB regions. Could I please have this from 2016 to 2021, broken down into the number each year and the overall number for the past five years.**

West Coast DHB does not have a central record of the number of referrals that may have been made to other DHBs for intersex babies in their first year of life looking for the surgery in other DHB regions between 2016 and 2021. Moreover, not all such surgery request referrals for West Coast-domiciled children may have been made through West Coast based health services, but be made instead from tertiary-level paediatric services in other DHBs following assessment.

We therefore decline your request for this data under Section 18(g) of the Official Information Act i.e. "... that the information requested is not held" by the West Coast DHB.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R La Salle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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