



CORPORATE OFFICE

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29 July 2021

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10650 & WCDHB 9575

I refer to your email dated 2 July 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB. Specifically:

Waikato DHB Chief Executive Dr. Kevin Snee recently stated to the press that:

"I think we are fairly typical of DHBs in terms of our cyber security arrangements."

I am concerned at the implication of this statement that any other DHB, including Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB, is/are also vulnerable to cyber security risks that could result in a cyber security incident, which could be typical of the incident that Waikato DHB is currently experiencing.

- 1. Has Canterbury DHB/West Coast DHB experienced any prior cyber security incidents?**
- 2. Has Canterbury DHB/West Coast DHB prepared for cyber security incidents?**
- 3. What actions has Canterbury DHB/West Coast DHB taken related to cyber security following the Waikato DHB cyber security incident?**
- 4. Is Canterbury DHB/West Coast DHB confident they will not have any future cyber security incidents?**

Your request is declined on the following grounds.

Official Information Act Section 6 (c): Releasing this information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences.

Section 9 (2) (c): the withholding of this information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures protecting the health or safety of members of the public; and

Section 9 (2) (e): the withholding of this information is necessary to avoid prejudice to measures that prevent or mitigate material loss to members of the public

Section 9 (2) (k): the withholding of the information is necessary to prevent the use of information for improper gain or advantage.

The public interest in disclosing the information requested does not outweigh these needs to withhold the information.

District Health Boards are committed to the prevention, detection and investigation of cyber threats.

Our protections include limiting the information about cybersecurity activities that we make public, as this could increase the chance of attacks in the future.

On behalf of the community, it is very important that we protect information about our cybersecurity strategies and methods as much as possible to ensure criminals do not use that information to hinder or bypass our security controls.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman about this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz; or 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website and West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tracey Maisey', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tracey Maisey
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support