



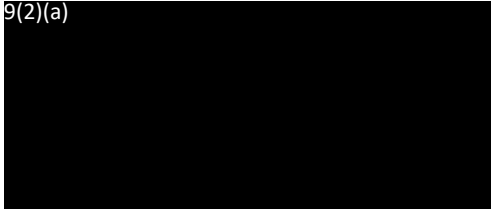
*West Coast District Health Board*  
*Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini*

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6 April 2022

9(2)(a)



**RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9681**

I refer to your email dated 9 March 2022 to the Ministry of Health which they transferred to us on the 29 March 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- a. The number of times NZ Sign Language Interpreters were booked (Successful and Unsuccessful) for Dr appointments in each DHB each week over the period of one year - February 2021 to February 2022? Would it have the type of Dr appointments by medical field or location (e.g. hospital or general practice) appointments that used NZSL Interpreters?**

The West Coast DHB does not currently have a contract in place to fund an agency that provides sign-language interpreters. The current practice is to utilise the assistance of family members and friends when treating hearing-impaired patients.

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

Ralph La Salle  
**Senior Manager, OIAs**  
**Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB**