

21 July 2021

Alli

Via email: alzeih@gmail.com

Tena koe Alli



100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Official Information Act Request - OIA 13607 Cyber Security

On 23 July 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

I make the following request to Whanganui DHB under the Official Information Act (OIA).

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 Whanganui DHB, is 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 Whanganui DHB experienced any prior cyber security incidents?
2. Has Whanganui DHB prepared for cyber security incidents?
3. What actions has Whanganui DHB taken related to cyber security following the Waikato DHB cyber security incident?
4. Is Whanganui DHB confident they will not have any future cyber security incidents?

Whanganui District Health Board declines your request 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.

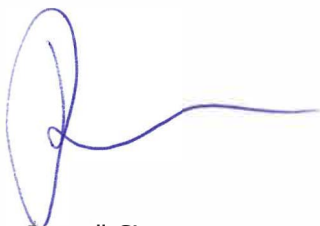
District Health Boards are committed to the prevention, detection and investigation of cyber threats. Our protections include limiting the information about cybersecurity activities that we make public, as this could increase the chance of attacks in the future.

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.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Nga mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop on the left that extends into a long, horizontal, wavy line to the right.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive