



9 December 2021



Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for the request received on 15 November 2021 made under section 12 of the Official Information Act 1982. Your request was as follows:

“...please provide information, including but not limited to emails, applications, reports, meeting minutes, memos, data, audiovisual materials and correspondence to/from the DHB about:

- Any policy regarding the covert surveillance of staff.*
- The number of times there have been applications for surveillance of staff.*
- The number of times there have been approvals for surveillance of staff.*
- The circumstances in which any surveillance of staff would be permissible.*
- No date range – these questions apply to as far back as the DHB can search IT systems....”*

In response to your specific questions:

Any policy regarding the covert surveillance of staff.

Waikato DHB does not distinguish requests for covert surveillance of staff or public. Covert surveillance is requested on the basis of which situation(s) has occurred that has warranted further investigation through covert surveillance.

Please find attached the Waikato DHB Surveillance Policy #0124, which cover covert surveillance.

The number of times there have been applications for surveillance of staff.

The number of times there have been approvals for surveillance of staff.

As advised, covert surveillance is applied based on situation(s) occurring not based on population groups i.e. staff. There have been 3 applications (all approved) for covert surveillance since July 2018. This is the furthest date range available in the system.

The circumstance in which any surveillance of staff would be permissible

As per the Waikato DHB Surveillance Policy covert surveillance applications are assessed against the following questions:

- Why surveillance is sought, including the identified concern.
- Why covert surveillance is believed necessary over other forms of monitoring and prevention.
- If physical abuse is suspected, what is the clinical basis for this conclusion?
- Proposed timeframe for the monitoring.
- Expected timeframe for cameras to be installed.
- Protocols proposed to be followed with respect to the access, viewing, storage, retention period and disposal of the recording.
- Any restrictions that may be placed on the surveillance to ensure surveillance is limited as far as practicable, including the period of surveillance.

If the application meets all the criteria, the Security Manager will seek approval from the Executive Director Organisational Support before implementing the surveillance.

Waikato DHB is withholding “**emails, applications, reports, meeting minutes, memos, data, audiovisual materials and correspondence**” requested under Section 9(2)(a) in order to protect the privacy of natural persons and Section 9(2)(ba) (i) and (ii) to protect information subject to an obligation of confidence.

Waikato DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publically funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. Please conduct all future requests for information via the standard Official Information request process and the DHB will duly oblige.

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

Yours sincerely



Christine Lowry
Chief Operating Officer
Waikato District Health Board