

14 December 2018

Re **Official Information Request for information relating to mesh procedures**

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 16 October 2018 to the Ministry of Health relating to credentialing expectations for mesh procedures and the partial transfer to the Auckland DHB of five questions on 2 November 2018 in accordance with section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). The questions are:

- 3. Please provide in total the number of surgeons who were undertaking surgical mesh procedures in NZ for stress urinary procedures using surgical mesh, prior to the 8th October 2018 and before the letter sent out by Dr Bloomfield to all DHB's.**
- 5. Please provide the total amount of surgeons whom will be able to continue to undertake removal/revision surgical mesh procedures in NZ after the 8th October 2018.**
- 6. Please provide the total amount of surgeons whom were undertaking removal/revision of surgical mesh in NZ prior to 8th October 2018.**
- 7. Please provide a total list of surgeons, by name, whom will be able to implant surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence procedures after the 8th October 2018.**
- 8. Please provide a list of surgeons, by name, whom will be able to remove surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence procedures. (major removal 2nd or subsequent adjustment as set out in credentialing expectations**

We have provided the information under each of your questions below.

- 3. Please provide in total the number of surgeons who were undertaking surgical mesh procedures in NZ for stress urinary procedures using surgical mesh, prior to the 8th October 2018 and before the letter sent out by Dr Bloomfield to all DHB's.**

Auckland DHB had four surgeons prior to 8 October 2018 to undertake surgical mesh procedures.

- 5. Please provide the total amount of surgeons whom will be able to continue to undertake removal/revision surgical mesh procedures in NZ after the 8th October 2018.**

Auckland DHB currently has four surgeons to undertake removal/revision of surgical mesh.

**6. Please provide the total amount of surgeons whom were undertaking removal/revision of surgical mesh in NZ prior to 8th October 2018.**

Auckland DHB had four surgeons prior to 8 October 2018 undertaking removal/revision of surgical mesh.

**7. Please provide a total list of surgeons, by name, whom will be able to implant surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence procedures after the 8th October 2018.**

The names of the surgeons are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, and section 9(2)(b)(ii) on the grounds of unreasonable prejudice to the commercial position of these specialists.

**8. Please provide a list of surgeons, by name, whom will be able to remove surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence procedures. (major removal 2nd or subsequent adjustment as set out in credentialing expectations)**

The names of the surgeons are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, and section 9(2)(b)(ii) on the grounds of unreasonable prejudice to the commercial position of these specialists.

We also note credentialing arrangements for removal of surgical mesh are to be confirmed by the relevant body.

I trust this information answers your questions. You are entitled under the Official Information Act section 28(3) to seek a review of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive