

16 October 2019

Email: [ailsac@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:ailsac@adhb.govt.nz)

**Re: Official Information Act request – Clinical Coding**

I refer to your Official Information Act (OIA) request dated 9 October 2019. Your requests and our responses are as follows:

- **all correspondence between Auckland District Health Board and 3C Systems Ltd since April 2018;**

3C is a company Auckland DHB is currently using to assist in addressing a backlog with clinical coding. Clinical coding is a specialist resource, and very scarce outside of DHBs in New Zealand. 3C is the only company known to Auckland DHB with the resources and skill set to code the complex case mix treated at Auckland DHB.

Most correspondence with 3C will be clinical information necessary for 3C to undertake coding. This information is withheld under s9(2)(a) OIA – to protect the privacy of natural persons. Auckland DHB has also determined to withhold any commercial correspondence with 3C, being with a provider of commercial services to Auckland DHB, under 9(2) OIA, specifically:

- (b) – to protect information where the making available of the information ... would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information;
  - (ba) – to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ;
  - (i) – to enable ADHB to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; or
  - (j) – to enable ADHB to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations .
- **all correspondence between Auckland District Health Board and Excel Coders Ltd since April 2018;**

There is no correspondence between Auckland DHB and Excel Coders Ltd.

- all correspondence between Rahul Mathur and ADHB relating to external contracting of clinical coding.

There is no correspondence between Rahul Mathur and Auckland DHB in regards to external contracting of clinical coding.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. 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