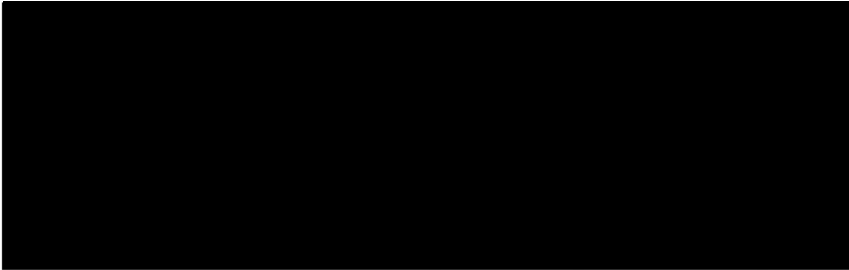


06 June 2019



Re **Official Information Request for information about asbestos at Auckland DHB facilities**

I refer to your official information request 3 May 2019 for the following information:

- 1. ADHB's equivalent of all and any consultant's report since start of 2017 similar to the report attached done for Counties Manukau DHB (i.e. a report that sets out what high-risk asbestos materials are where and to what extent)***
- 2. The most up to date asbestos register the ADHB has as of May 3, 2019***
- 3. Any and all air sample test reports since start of 2015 till May 2019, that detected a level of fibre exceeding the notifiable level of 0.02 fibres/ml of air***
- 4. Documentation showing the above being notified***
- 5. Any and all air sample test reports received since start of 2015 till May 2019, which show any exposure to a level of asbestos exceeding 0.1 fibres/ml of air averaged over an 8-hour period***
- 6. Documentation showing the above being notified***
- 7. Any report about patient or staff exposure to asbestos received or generated since start of 2015***
- 8. Any assessment by an independent Consultant into health and safety matters related to asbestos, since start of 2015***
- 9. Any report since 2015 in which concerns are raised about asbestos in the ceiling void, or breaches of those voids for any reason***

In most cases, Auckland DHB does not hold information on asbestos in the formats you have requested.

Our primary reporting on the risks associated with asbestos is to the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee (FRAC). These Board committee meetings are not open to the public, but we have attached relevant Auckland DHB Asbestos Updates for 5 September 2018, 17 October 2018, 27 November 2018, and 13 February 2019.

If these excerpts are useful, we can provide you with information from earlier meetings.

We have responded individually to your questions below.

- 1. ADHB's equivalent of all and any consultant's report since start of 2017 similar to the report attached done for Counties Manukau DHB (i.e. a report that sets out what high-risk asbestos materials are where and to what extent)**

Auckland DHB did not commission external reports comparable to the Counties Manukau DHB report. We initiated widespread screening of facilities on our three sites. This information provided the location, extent, and type of asbestos in our buildings and was used to inform the Asbestos Management Plan.

This request is refused under section 18(e) in that the document containing the information requested does not exist.

- 2. The most up to date asbestos register the ADHB has as of May 3, 2019**

We are in the process of transferring the data in the Asbestos Register from our old database into the new Alpha Tracker database as referred to in the internal audit report attached. The transfer process is very slow and the new database is currently not able to provide reports.

This request is refused under 18(e) in that transferring data into the new register is proving a very large and complex undertaking and the document containing the information currently does not exist.

- 3. Any and all air sample test reports since start of 2015 till May 2019, that detected a level of fibre exceeding the notifiable level of 0.02 fibres/ml of air**

Nil

- 4. Documentation showing the above being notified**

Not Applicable

- 4. Any and all air sample test reports received since start of 2015 till May 2019, which show any exposure to a level of asbestos exceeding 0.1 fibres/ml of air averaged over an 8-hour period**

Nil

- 6. Documentation showing the above being notified**

Not Applicable

- 7. Any report about patient or staff exposure to asbestos received or generated since start of 2015**

Nil

- 8. Any assessment by an independent Consultant into health and safety matters related to asbestos, since start of 2015 - I know there will be assessments because of concerns.**

Please find enclosed a 2018 Audit Report carried out by Deloitte and the related paper that were tabled at the September 2018 FRAC meeting. The relevant minute of that meeting is below.

11.4 Asbestos Management Programme Audit (Pages 225-237)

Ramon Manzano, General Manager, Regional Internal Audit (RIA) asked that the report be taken as read introducing Monica Wakeman from Deloitte and Mashouda Chuttur and Apaula Fruean from RIA.

The purpose of the review was to identify whether the asbestos management programme is designed and implemented effectively as part of health and safety management and meets Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016.

RIA found that Auckland DHB has a good programme in place to manage asbestos risk, including policies and guidelines and the practices from Worksafe NZ. It was noted that the system had strengths in the areas of an asbestos management plan and programme, collaboration and training and awareness.

It was also noted however, that the current electronic asbestos register was not used by contractors as required. Auckland DHB has advised that it is in the process of changing from the current electronic register to the Alpha Tracker system. Auckland DHB believes that the new system will solve the issues presently faced with the current electronic register. RIA will be monitoring this implementation.

9. Any report since 2015 in which concerns are raised about asbestos in the ceiling void, or breaches of those voids for any reason

This request is refused under section 18(e) in that the document containing the information requested does not exist.

I trust this information answers your questions.

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 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