

18 February 2019



Dear 

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 8 January 2019 seeking the following of Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

- *Details of any issues-based audits or investigations into rest homes, dementia units or retirement villages in your DHB area carried out, commissioned or provided to the DHB for the past four years (2015-2018)*
- *Provide the name of the service and the year it was audited, a copy of the original complaint (or whatever sparked the investigation) a copy of the completed audit and any follow up reports.*

All routine audits (certification and surveillance) of aged residential care facilities are conducted by Designated Auditing Agencies under instruction from HealthCERT and are available on the Ministry of Health Website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/certification-health-care-services>.

Beyond routine audits, Waitemata DHB has commissioned one issues-based audit of an aged residential care facility during the period 2015 to 2018. A financial and claims audit of Orewa Secure Care was carried out in 2017 at the DHB's request after the DHB was alerted to non-payment of an invoice by a supplier to the facility.

Since the audit was undertaken, there has been a change in ownership of the facility. We believe the commercial interests of the new owner of the facility would be adversely affected by the release of the audit report and the need to protect those interests is not outweighed by the public interest in the information being made available. Waitemata DHB has discussed this with the new owner and they have raised significant concerns about how releasing the audit report could potentially impact their business. The DHB is, therefore, withholding the report under clause 9(2)(b)(ii) on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

Waitemata DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-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.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Holdsworth', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dr Debbie Holdsworth
Director Funding
Waitemata District Health Board