

3 June 2021

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021053**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 11 May 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

### ***All pertaining to Wairoa Hospital - Kitchener Street, Wairoa - Hawkes Bay***

- 1. Past buildings that were found to have any level of Asbestos***
- 2. Areas of those buildings that contained asbestos***
- 3. Areas of those buildings that were accessible to Nursing Staff, Maintenance Staff and General Public***
- 4. Any other information that would indicate an initiative by current and/or past DHB's (or the like), to identify those likely exposed and level of risk to their health***
- 5. Current Buildings and areas of those buildings at Wairoa Hospital that have confirmed asbestos remaining***
- 6. Current buildings and areas of those buildings that may have any likelihood of Asbestos***

*Please note, HBDHB complies with the current requirements of the Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016. Wairoa Hospital is one of HBDHB's facilities and is therefore included as part of this compliance.*

In response to question 1 and 2, past buildings found to have any level of asbestos were; Storage Shed 1, Storage Shed 2, Engineering Workshop, Paint Workshop, Welding Bay, Laundry & Carpentry Workshop, Water Tower, Harvey Ward, Boiler House, Francis Kimbell Hostel, D Block, C Block, Kitchen Block, Ground trenches, Swimming Pool Changing Rooms, Bike Shed, St Johns Ambulance Office Building.

Asbestos is commonly found in soffits, wall linings and lagging on pipes. *\*Correction as at 27 January 2022. This OIA response has been updated and the requester advised. Due to an administration error the DHB's original response to question one and two stated all buildings identified are disused buildings, however Francis Kimbell Hostel, D Block, C Block, Kitchen Block and St Johns Ambulance Office Building are not disused buildings. The DHB apologises for this error.*

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**C H I E F   E X E C U T I V E ' S   O F F I C E**

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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*Furthermore, Asbestos is managed in accordance with the Hawke's Bay District Health Board's Asbestos Management Plan which includes periodic asbestos surveys and assessment of known asbestos and its condition. The Hostel has both friable and non-friable asbestos. Friable asbestos is not accessible to the residents and the non-friable asbestos is encapsulate, generally by maintaining the paint system of the building.*

In response to question 3, Wairoa Hospital as a facility of HBDHB, complies with the building code and regulations and amendments made to legislation. HBDHB currently complies with the Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016.

Areas of now disused buildings that contain asbestos were used by Nursing and Maintenance staff before the Regulations were enacted but this was in-line with the legislation, guidance and regulations of the time.

In response to question 4, health monitoring began when asbestos was raised as an issue as part of the legislative regulations. Staff identified as having been exposed to asbestos are part of an ongoing health monitoring programme provided by HBDHB's Occupational Health team.

In response to question 5 and 6, current buildings at Wairoa Hospital with confirmed asbestos remaining are outlined in question 1, some are not in use.

Any identified asbestos remaining in current buildings, is non friable or inaccessible and is recorded in HBDHB's Asbestos register, as part of compliance with the Asbestos Regulations. It is important to note Asbestos is still used today in bonded form (usually mixed with cement into a sheet) and is only unsafe when it is disturbed and moves into a friable state.

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



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