

Corporate Services



16 December 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021152

I refer to your Official Information Act (OIA) request dated 15 November 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- ***Any policy regarding the covert surveillance of staff.***
- ***The number of times there have been applications for surveillance of staff.***
- ***The number of times there have been approvals for surveillance of staff.***
- ***The circumstances in which any surveillance of staff would be permissible.***
- ***No date range – these questions apply to as far back as the DHB can search IT systems.***

The DHB does not have a policy relating to the use of covert surveillance of staff, and any situations are considered on a case-by-case basis. The DHB is conscious of its obligations under the Privacy Act 2020, and in the rare event that surveillance may be required, will be mindful of those obligations and take advice as required.

As at current date the DHB is aware of one application to use a covert camera for a defined period of time. The search for applications of covert camera use in the DHB IT system is available from 2009 onwards.

Approval for this type of surveillance can only be given by the Chief Executive Officer or Chief Operating Officer (COO), and in this instance was approved. In this case, the reasoning for surveillance related to the suspected theft of property. As the DHB does not have a policy relating to the use of covert surveillance of staff, the authority to undertake this action rests with the CEO and/or COO.

The information you are seeking about the circumstances in which surveillance would be permissible is not held by the DHB, but would need to be created to respond to your request (i.e. we would need to create a policy). Hawke's Bay DHB therefore refuses this portion of your request pursuant to section 18(g) of the OIA.

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.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE
Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Price', with a horizontal line underneath.

Martin Price
Executive Director – People and Culture

cc: Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIAs@moh.govt.nz
oiq@hbdhb.govt.nz