

13 December 2021



John Edens

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Via email: John.Edens@rnz.co.nz

Tēnā koe John

Official Information Act Request – OIA Covert Surveillance of Staff

On 15 November 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

Under the Official Information Act, please provide information, including but not limited to emails, applications, reports, meeting minutes, memos, data, audio-visual materials and correspondence to/from the DHB about:

1. Any policy regarding the covert surveillance of staff.
2. The number of times there have been applications for surveillance of staff.
3. The number of times there have been approvals for surveillance of staff.
4. 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

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

1. Any policy regarding the covert surveillance of staff.

No policy for surveillance of staff exists and it is not a function carried out by WDHB.

2. The number of times there have been applications for surveillance of staff.

- **Facilities** – don't routinely have covert surveillance of staff
- **Human Resources** – Between July and November 2019 one of the WDHB wards experienced various instances of theft of patient and staff personal belongings. Various complaints were received from patients and the matter was investigated and also referred to the NZ Police for further investigation and action. There were no witnesses and little evidence to assist in the investigation. One of the WDHB actions included video surveillance of the ward's staff room (tearoom) between 24 October 2019 to approximately 7 November 2019. The video was installed during work hours and in full view of staff who were in the staff room at the time.
- **ICT** – does not engage in Covert surveillance of WDHB staff.

3. The number of times there have been approvals for surveillance of staff.

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4. The circumstances in which any surveillance of staff would be permissible.

WDHB has a high threshold for this type of request and will consider this only when all other options have been exhausted. Surveillance will only be considered in public areas. Theft is an example of an instance where this might be appropriate.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Dyer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Dyer

Kaihautū Hauora– Acting Chief Executive
Whanganui District Health Board