

14th June 2021

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request for – Challenges to Coronial Findings

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 17th May 2021, you requested the following information:

I would like to know:

- **How many times has your DHB challenged a coroner's findings after an inquest in each of the following years? 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021**
- **For cases from 2017 onward:**
 - **please give an overview of the case and the name of the patient concerned**
 - **what points were challenged, and why**
 - **how much did the DHB spend on its challenge in each of these cases?**

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

The Coronial process requires Coroners to provide any party that is subject to adverse comment the opportunity to comment before findings are issued. Draft findings are provided, and the party/parties can comment on these before they are finalised. CM Health makes use of that process, and as such have not challenged any Coroners findings in the years covered by your request.

I trust this information answers your request. 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 may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'F. Margie Apa'.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health