

## Media Response

**To:** Sean Hoskins, Wairarapa Times Age  
**From:** Jill Stringer, Communications Advisor  
**Date:** 4 May 2004  
**Subject:** Suitcase of X-RAYS missing

Wairarapa DHB today confirmed that a courier suitcase containing xrays of 32 patients has gone missing in transit, while being sent from a Wellington radiology service where they had been reported on. They were dispatched from Masterton Hospital to Pacific Radiology on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April but subsequently did not arrive back at Masterton Hospital.

"Patients have been either telephoned or visited or both, and the situation explained," says CEO David Meates. "From a clinical perspective, it is fortunate that the xrays had been reported on before going missing. The Ministry of Health has been notified, as well as the Police. GP's and specialist consultants, as appropriate, are being notified and advised of the situation."

Investigations are continuing and it is hoped that the material will be located in the near future.

"The xrays were in a large dark green trolley suitcase with the Wairarapa DHB logo and 'Masterton Hospital Radiology' written on it," says Mr Meates. "If any member of the public has seen it abandoned, or knows of the where-about, please contact either Masterton Hospital or the nearest police station".

Ends

**Contacts:** Jill Stringer, Communications Advisor  
Ph: 946 9800 x 5840  
Mob: 025 273 1154