

20 December 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Official information request W18-282

I refer to your official information request dated 10 December 2018.

Request:

1. The number of fax machines owned by the DHB;
2. The number of fax machines purchased in the 2017/18 financial year, and the cost of the same;
3. Whether facsimile are regularly used in your DHB's hospitals, and if so, what for (we seek only a general description of the clinical, or administrative processes that rely on sending or receiving facsimile on a day-to-day basis);
4. Any advice, analysis or planning documents in the last 12 months about phasing facsimile out by upgrading to more modern IT systems.

Finally, in relation to photocopies and multifunction machines – please only consider these a fax machine for the purpose of this request where the machine is actually connected to a phone line – i.e. disregard machines that while have the technical ability to operate as a fax, are in fact exclusively used for emailed or server based 'scan and send'.

Response:

The information you have requested is below.

1. We estimate there are less than five standalone fax machines owned by the DHB. In addition, the DHB uses 27 multi-function devices that have fax capability and are connected to the phone network. The multifunction devices are not owned by the DHB but provided under a service contract for delivery of multi-function devices.
2. None.
3. Faxes are widely used across the hospital, predominantly for sending and receiving information that pertains to patient information.
4. During the planning to upgrade to a newer multifunction device fleet during 2018, we confirmed that the users of the 27 multi-function device with fax capability, still require fax capability on new equipment to be installed in 2019.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Wairarapa District Health Board website no less than one week after the response has been provided to you. Any personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. The DHB will endeavour to resolve any concerns you should raise but, subject to any legal grounds for withholding, ultimately reserves the right to publish any information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact:

Caroline van Deventer
Communications Administrator
Email: caroline.vanDeventer@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz
Ph: 06 946 9800, ext 5840

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adri Isbister', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Adri Isbister
Chief Executive