

20 December 2018



Dear 

**Official information request W18-283**

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

**Request:**

We understand that some DHBs still use pager systems – “beepers” – for medical staff.

We would like to know how widely these are used in New Zealand’s public health system. We therefore request the following information:

- the number of pagers used and owned by the DHB, and what these are used for (including how regularly they are used); and
- any advice, analysis or planning documents in the last 12 months about phasing out pagers by upgrading to more modern communications systems; and
- any advice, or analysis in the last 12 months about the reliability of the DHB’s paging systems.

**Response:**

- There are 12 pagers that are used by Wairarapa DHB (WrDHB). These are used by the Medical Emergency Team (MET) and Arrest (777). The paging system is not owned by WrDHB, the contract is held by NZ Fire Service.
- The pagers are used approximately five to seven times a week to manage medical emergencies. They are used to alert the team to initiate a response.
- The contract does not expire until 2020. There has not been any advice, analysis or planning done in the last 12 month. Nor has there been any advice or analysis in the last 12 months about their reliability done by the DHB.

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](mailto:caroline.vanDeventer@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz)

Ph: 06 946 9800, ext 5840

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Adri Isbister', written in a cursive style.

Adri Isbister

**Chief Executive**