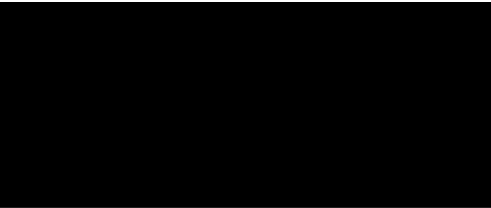


23 November 2018



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act request – Mason Clinic reports

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) seeking specific security and serious incident reports concerning the operation of the Mason Clinic which we received on 30 October 2018.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services to assist your understanding.

The Regional Forensic Psychiatry Service, also known as the Mason Clinic, is operated by Waitemata DHB and serves the populations of the four Northern Region DHBs – Northland, Waitemata, Auckland and Counties Manukau.

Mason Clinic has 102 mental health beds and 12 forensic intellectual disability beds on the current 3.9 ha campus at Point Chevalier, which also provides a base for all other Auckland Regional Forensic Service operations.

These beds are located in eight units of 10 to 20 beds, with either an acute treatment or rehabilitation focus. They include medium secure, minimum secure and open units to facilitate recovery and community reintegration.

Other services include the community forensic services for intellectual disability (a liaison service with a caseload of approximately 35 people); community forensic services for mental health (with a caseload of approximately 50 patients); the forensic prison team (an in-reach team with a caseload approaching 10 per cent of the regional prison muster); and forensic court liaison service (with an active caseload of about 600 cases).

In answer to your questions, please see the responses provided below.

1. May I please have a copy of the security report completed for the clinic in 2015?

We have decided to withhold this report under s6(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on the basis that making available the information is likely to endanger the safety of the public .

The Mason Clinic receives maximum security prisoners who require treatment for mental disorders and who would present a risk to the public if the security of the clinic were to be compromised. We note that

in the United Kingdom, the security standards for high secure units are not publicly available so that there is no compromise to the security of units.

2. *May I please have a copy of the report written about (or any paperwork created about) a sexual attack on a staff member during an escorted walk, an incident that occurred sometime in the last ten years?*

Waitemata DHB does not have any record of an incident within the scope of your request.

3. *May I have any documentation created after an attempted break-in to the clinic where the perspex glass was cut and police had to be called? This was in the last five years.*

A summary of this incident is provided below. Waitemata DHB is withholding the actual documentation relating to this incident on the basis that releasing it would be likely to compromise the security of the Mason Clinic and create a risk of copycat break-in attempts.

Mason Clinic is a secure hospital which houses maximum security prisoners. Some patients have the potential to endanger the safety of members of the public if the security of the clinic is compromised.

In our view, the public interest in the information being made available is adequately served by the release of the summary. We have withheld the actual documentation under sections 6(d) and 9(2)(c) of the Act.

At 05:15 on 12 August 2015, a person was detected by staff attempting to gain entry to a patient's room from outside the building. The patient was moved out of the room and the attempt to gain entry ceased.

Police were called, attended promptly and took over the investigation of the incident.

4. *Can I please have a list of all the times police were called to attend incidents at the clinic in the last three years, and details of those incidents*

A list of Police attendances at the Mason Clinic over the last three years is provided below.

Date	Description
12 August 2015	See details provided in response to question three above.
19 April 2017	Police were called to Mason Clinic after a staff member saw people inside a building under construction on the campus at 22:50. A Police check established that the people in building were construction workers.
16 November 2017	A Mason Clinic patient became angry and aggressive, began kicking and punching walls and windows of his room and destroying fittings. Police were called. The patient calmed down once informed that Police had arrived and was placed in High Care Room.

I trust that this information meets your requirements. However, if you are dissatisfied with any of the decisions we have made about the provision of information, you are entitled to make a complaint to the Ombudsman, whose details are available via www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

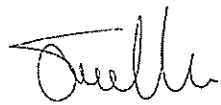
Waitemata DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

I trust this information will satisfy your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susanna', written in a cursive style.

Dr Susanna Galea-Singer
Director
Specialist Mental Health & Addictions Services
Waitemata District Health Board