



27 January 2021



Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: OIA request – Art owned by the DHB**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 21 December seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the amount and value of art owned by us.

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

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

***I am writing to request information about the district health board's art collection, if it has any. I make this request under the Official Information Act.***

***The request is as follows:***

- 1. How many pieces of art does the DHB own? Art includes any artwork, including drawings, paintings, sculptures, statues, photographs, or any other types of art.***
- 2. Please state what the art is – e.g. a painting, who the artist is, whether the art was donated or purchased, and the value of the artwork. If a sculpture or statue, what or who does the art depict?***
- 3. If the artwork was purchased, how much did it cost to buy and when was it bought?***
- 4. What is the combined total value of all of the DHB's art?***
- 5. Where is the artwork housed? E.G., which hospital, building, wing, ward?***

**1 & 2.** We are unable to provide a comprehensive list or details of the complete art collection as this has built-up over time and there are many thousands of items throughout the DHB.

3. Art is not purchased by the DHB. Items are loaned or come to us via public or corporate donations.
4. We do not hold this information.
5. Art is displayed at all DHB sites.

To collate the information requested in questions 1 to 5 would take frontline staff away from their core duties over some weeks.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to these aspects of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse these elements of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to seek a review is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

**6. *Has the DHB ever donated or loaned any art and if so to who, when, for how long and why?***

No, the DHB has not donated or loaned any art.

**7. *Is the art insured and if so for how much? Has any art ever been stolen and if so was it recovered?***

Artworks on loan from the Wallace Trust are insured via Three Harbours Health Foundation, up to the total value of the collection, which is determined by the trust and changes depending on which items are on-loan to the DHB.

All other items of art are covered under the general contents of Waitematā DHB and, therefore, are not insured as individual items.

There are no reports of any artwork been stolen.

**8. *Has any of the art ever been damaged and repaired and if so when and how was it damaged?***

In 2014, an art work received superficial damage when a ceiling lighting cover fell during refurbishment work in a North Shore Hospital ward. It was subsequently repaired via Wallace Arts Trust.

**9. *Has the DHB ever undertaken an art audit and if so when?***

Yes, an audit was undertaken of North Shore Hospital in 2014. This information is now out-of-date.

**10. *What is the benefit to patients of the artwork?***

Paintings on the walls of clinical spaces create welcoming and calming environments for patients, visitors and staff. Art can reduce a patient's anxiety or discomfort by providing a distraction. Art and environment-based photography is particularly beneficial to areas that do not have access to natural light - bringing the outside in, adding colour and, in some instances, providing a local connection.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community 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 consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely

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

**Mark Shepherd**  
**Executive Director Hospital Services**  
**Waitematā District Health Board**