



10 April 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – equipment sterilisation

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received via transfer from the Ministry of Health on 22 March 2019 seeking the following of Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

- *I would like a detailed breakdown of any and all incidents relating to equipment not being properly sterilised by district health boards in 2018 and 2019.*

Waitemata DHB serves the largest population of any DHB in New Zealand, currently standing at more than 630,000 people.

Our DHB performs 16,000 acute surgeries and more than 11,500 elective surgeries per year and the number of incidents due to surgical instruments not being properly sterilised is very low.

We have checked our incident monitoring system and identified two events within the scope of your request.

Neither of these resulted in any harm to patients as on both occasions our quality control processes identified issues before the affected instruments were used.

In relation to the first incident, a drill bit still had visible debris after it was returned from sterilisation.

This was picked up during a routine visual inspection of equipment before surgery, meaning the item did not come into contact with the patient.

In the second incident, there were requests for an esophageal dilation system to be sterilised for use in-theatre but this did not go ahead as it was discovered the item was outside the manufacturer's recommended expiry date.

I trust that this information meets your requirements. 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Brant', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Dr Andrew Brant
Chief Medical Officer & Deputy CEO
Waitemata District Health Board