



18 December 2018

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Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – fax machines

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 10 December seeking details of fax machines used by Waitemata District Health Board (DHB).

Waitemata DHB has the largest resident population of any DHB in New Zealand, currently standing at more than 630,000 people. We employ more than 7,000 staff and operate from more than 80 sites across the Waitemata district and beyond.

In response to your questions:

1. *The number of fax machines owned by the DHB.*

Waitemata DHB owns three fax machines.

2. *The number of fax machines purchased in the 2017/18 financial year and the cost of the same.*

There were no fax machines purchased in 2017/18.

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).*

The use of faxes for transmitting information is no longer common practice at Waitemata DHB as secure digital systems have been widely implemented. On some occasions, referrals are still received from GPs in the community via fax but this is relatively rare as an electronic system has been in place for some years. Internal referrals between our own services also still use fax in some instances, with the backing of an electronic tracking system to guard against any risk of misplaced documentation.

4. *Any advice, analysis or planning documents in the last 12 months about phasing facsimile out by upgrading to more modern IT systems.*

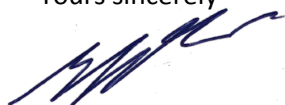
The progression to fully integrated digital systems is a continuous process. There has been significant reductions in facsimile use over the last 12 months, with the introduction of electronic referrals both internal and external.

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 'Stuart Bloomfield', written over a faint circular stamp.

Stuart Bloomfield
Chief Information Officer
Waitemata District Health Board