

17 February 2020

Re: Official Information Act request – Cost of ECT

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 15 January 2020 to the Ministry of Health (MOH). The MoH transferred question 3 to Auckland DHB on 23 January 2020. The MoH will respond to questions 1, 2 and 4. You requested the following information:

1. I request the number of times Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) has been used and on how many people in the last five years broken down by year and region/DHB e.g. 50 times on 50 people in Auckland, 60 times or 45 people in Wellington *(to be responded to by the MoH)*
2. I request the reasons for ECT being used *(to be responded to by the MoH)*
3. I request the cost of ECT.

The average cost of a single treatment of ECT is \$900. This figure includes theatre charges, medical and nursing costs, administration and overhead costs, and capital equipment costs. This figure is based on ECT treatments given during the 2018/19 financial year.

4. I request the number of complaints received relating to ECT treatment *(to be responded to by the MoH)*

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive