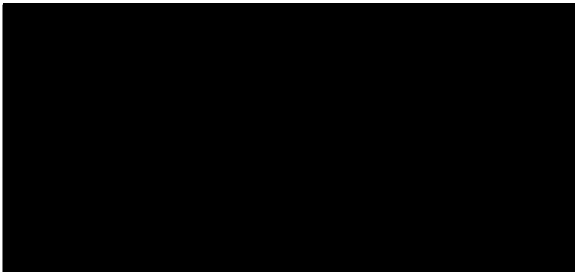


28 October 2020



**Re: Official Information Act request – Centralised purchasing agent or policy for ECT Machines**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 11 September 2020 to the MoH. The MoH have transferred questions B,C,E and H to Auckland DHB on 12 October 2020. You requested the following information:

**In respect of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and the machines used to administer this treatment, can you please provide the following information:**

**A. Is there a centralised purchasing agent or policy for ECT machines? eg Pharmac.**  
*(MoH to respond to this question)*

**B. Are there different machines in use in different DHBs?**

Auckland DHB does not hold information about what machines are used at the different DHBs. Therefore we are declining to answer this question under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act. Please see answer to question C below for information on Auckland DHB's ECT machines.

**C. How many machines are in use in each DHB? If that too wide a request, then in Waitemata DHB, Canterbury DHB, and Capital and Coast DHB.**

Auckland DHB has two ECT machines. Our main machine is a Mecta. We have a back-up Thymatron machine.

**D. In the light of the Somatic's disclaimers set out below, are any Somatic machines in NZ, what advice, if any, has the Ministry given to the clinical users and/or patients using the machines.**  
*(MoH to respond to this question)*

- E. If most of the machines are of a particular manufacturer, how long have they been in use, I am particularly interested in the age and make of the ECT machines in the Waitemata DHB.

Auckland DHB's main ECT machine is a Mecta. It is approximately 3 years old.

- F. Since 1 January 2010, what advice has the Ministry given to Psychiatrists and/or Anaesthetists and or any other medical personnel and/or DHBs on the use of ECT. Within the meaning of the term "advice" that should include any policy or guidelines howsoever labelled.

*(MoH to respond to this question)*

- G. How many complaints, if any, have been made to the Ministry regarding the use of ECT machines annually in the period 1 January 2010, to 1 January 2020?

*(MoH to respond to this question)*

- H. Does the Ministry have any statistics of any complaints about ECT that have been made to DHBs, and if so, please provide similar information broken down annually in the period 1 January 2010, to 1 January 2020.

One complaint has been received by Auckland DHB within this time period. The complaint was received in May 2016, in relation to ECT administered to that service user 17 years earlier.

- I. Can the Ministry provide details of whether in the last 10 years there have been any complaints of breaches of section 9 of NZBORA in relation to ECT treatments, either to the Ministry or DHBs, and if so the results of those complaints.

*(MoH to respond to this question)*

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](http://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