

14 December 2021

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Re Official Information Request for Mortuary Security

I refer to your official information request dated 15 November 2021 for the following information:

The reason I am writing to you is my concern about the mortuary in Auckland hospital – and in fact in mortuaries around New Zealand. Are our deceased loved ones being protected? The British hospitals had CCTV footage but not in the areas where the abuse took place.

The information you have requested is enclosed below

While it is not culturally appropriate to have cameras in the autopsy or tūpāpaku (deceased person) room, we do have a number of layers of security as follows:

We have 16 CCTV cameras in or around Forensic Pathology (FP). Most are corridor views:

- Main Forensic Pathology entrance
- Office space
- Corridors within FP
- Inside and outside the roller door garage
- Outside car park spaces for Pathologist and Police
- Whanau room
- Tupapaku tunnel
- Building 31 main entrance (where the couriers enter)

Also:

- All the tūpāpaku fridges are key locked at night
- Only people with an authorised staff pass can enter the dept. (FP staff, Bereavement Services and the cleaners)
- Passes only enable access at a particular day/time, they do not allow access outside of these times
- Contractors can only gain access
 - a) if booked to come on site

- b) they have to sign in/out and are always supervised
- We also periodically review the list of persons with swipe card access and those with no valid reason or no longer have a service relationship are removed.
- Technicians only come in after hours in pairs

I trust this answers your questions.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. 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 sincerely,



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive