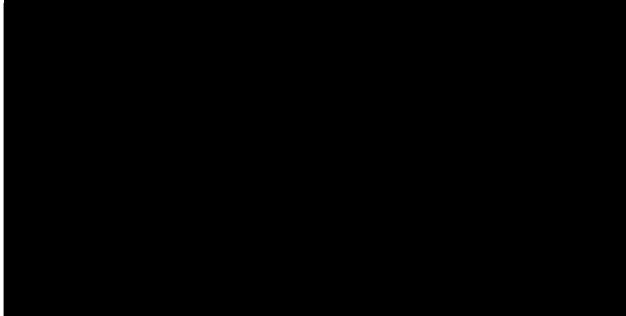


27 November 2020



I refer to your Official Information Request dated 3 November 2020 requesting the following information:

I wish to receive information regarding the number of formal complaints about surgical equipment mistakenly being left behind in patients in the last three years, which went to the Health and Disability Commissioner or resulted in a review of hospital policy.

Can this information be broken down by year, what the item was, how long it was mistakenly left in the patient for, when it was removed and the effect(s) on the patient.

We have reviewed the incident records for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 years with the Quality and Safety Team of the Directorate. I am very pleased to report that there have been no complaints or recorded instances of surgical equipment being mistakenly left behind in patients treated at Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board) facilities.

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 District Health Boards website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)