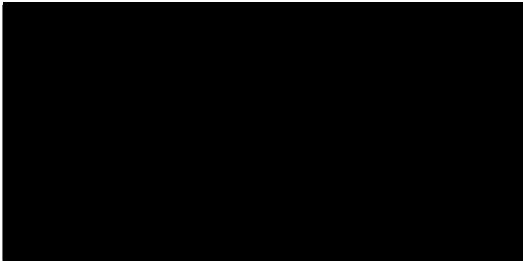


08 February 2019



Re **Official Information Request for use of fax machines**

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 10 December 2018 for information about the following information:

- 1. the number of fax machines owned by the DHB;***
- 2. the number of fax machines purchased in the 2017/18 financial year, and the cost of the same;***
- 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); and***
- 4. any advice, analysis or planning documents in the last 12 months about phasing facsimile out by upgrading to more modern IT systems.***
- 5. any advice, analysis or planning documents in the last 12 months about phasing facsimile out by upgrading to more modern IT systems.***

The Auckland DHB does not own any fax machines as the 50 machines in the asset register were sold to healthAlliance in June 2011 as part of the IT/IS regional asset transfer. Fax machines have a useful life of 5 years and any assets sold to healthAlliance would now be fully depreciated.

The DHB has not purchased any fax machines for a number of years and the technology has been progressively replaced by scanners and emails.

Fax machines still in use during the transition to fully encrypted electronic transfer of information and documents are located in secure areas where access is only available to authorised staff under strict rules outlined in the Auckland DHB Information Privacy and Security Policy. We also use fax to email technology for non-electronic paper-based legacy systems.

Auckland DHB uses Healthlink to transfer documents securely to GPs and other primary care providers. Encrypted email is also used as well as password protection of attachments when recipients are not able to receive encrypted emails.

In relation to your request in regard to planning documents, the aim over the next decade is for the Northern Region to be a 'joined up' integrated health system. The link below takes you to the Northern Region's Information Systems Strategic Plan 2017-2027 (ISSP) which highlights a move to integrated IT systems.

<http://pulse.healthcare.huarahi.health.govt.nz/Portals/0/Documents/services/ISSP/ISSP%20v1.0%20Final.pdf>

I trust this information answers your questions.

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