

Clinical / Human Resources : Women's Health
Proactive Release: 26 September 2019

06 September 2019

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us 12 August 2019. You requested the following information:

1. **Has CM Health ever suspended any LMC's access, or taken any action, against an LMC over the last 5 years (for any reason)?**
 - a. **If the answer is yes, without breaching confidentiality, please confirm with enough detail what led to the suspension or action?**
 - b. **If it was an action, and not a suspension, please confirm what the action was that CM Health took.**

CM Health has not suspended any Lead Maternity Carer's (LMC) access in the last five years for any reasons.

As per Section 88 requirements, CM Health has Access Agreements in place with any LMCs who use our birthing facilities. There are cases where an Access Agreement has terminated at the renewal stage. We have considered the balance of public interest in releasing further information on those circumstances, and the privacy rights of the individual parties involved in the Agreements. We do not believe public interest in this matter outweighs those privacy rights.

Therefore, we are declining to release further details beyond those noted here, as providing further information will readily identify individuals. We do this under S9(2)(a) of the Act – to protect the privacy of natural persons.

We note that the Midwifery Council of New Zealand is responsible for ensuring professional standards, and for determining any suspension of a midwife from practice.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Apa', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health