

Clinical: Mental Health  
Proactive Release: 16 June 2020

05 June 2020

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

### Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 22 May 2020, via a partial transfer of your request to the Ministry of Health, under Section 14 of the Act. You requested the following information related to mental health and electroconvulsive therapy (ECT):

- **Can you please inform me of the precise number of these devices in NZ hospitals in present time?**

For context, CM Health Services provide health and support services to more than 569,400 people residing in South Auckland, both in hospitals and community settings, along with some regional and supra-regional specialist services (Burns, Plastics and Orthopaedics). Some specialist mental health services, including Alcohol and Drug Addiction services, Forensic services and inpatient child and adolescent services are provided to our Counties Manukau community by other DHBs for the entire Auckland region. Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient/ ambulatory and community-based models of care.

With regard to your request,

- CM Health utilises a Thymatron IV machine to administer ECT to those individuals where this is identified as a treatment by our Mental Health and Addictions clinicians.
- We currently have one of these machines at Middlemore Hospital.

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,



Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
Chief Executive Officer  
Counties Manukau Health