

31 January 2022

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021176**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 16 December 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- ***Is the Frances Kimbell Hostel at Wairoa still being used for accommodation?***
- ***In relation to Q 4 and health monitoring? I nursed at Wairoa Hospital in 1970-72 and again in 1976. There were issues with buildings and asbestos exposure back then. I am in regular contact with nursing class colleagues, and none have been contacted. A Lot of the nurses I worked with stayed on and worked for 30-40 years there***

In response to question one, the Frances Kimbell Hostel is still in full use for Hawke's Bay DHB and non DHB tenants.

Please see the [link](#) to our website which shows the correction issued from a previous Official Information Act enquiry that stated Frances Kimbell Hostel is not in use.

It is important to note that any identified asbestos remaining in current buildings, is non-friable or inaccessible and is recorded in HBDHB's Asbestos register, as part of compliance with the Asbestos Regulations. Asbestos is still used today in bonded form (usually mixed with cement into a sheet) and is only unsafe when it is disturbed and moves into a friable state.

In response to question two, health monitoring began when asbestos was raised as an issue as part of the legislative regulations. Staff identified as having been exposed to asbestos are part of an ongoing health monitoring programme provided by HBDHB's Occupational Health team. If you have not been contacted and think you have been exposed, please contact your General Practitioner. Current employees of the Hawke's Bay District Health Board should contact the Occupational Health Nurse.

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Boyd

Executive Director – Financial Services

cc: *Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIAs@moh.govt.nz*  
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