

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

RECEIVED

5 NOV 2007

HDC AKLD

Chief Medical Officer

2nd floor, The Princess Margaret Hospital
P O Box 1600, Christchurch

Tel: (03) 364 4139

Fax: (03) 364 4142

Email: nigel.millar@cdhb.govt.nz

31 October 2007

Mr Ron Paterson
Health and Disability Commissioner
P.O. Box 1791
AUCKLAND

Dear Ron

re Capital and Coast District Health Board

Further to your letter of 18 October 2007 to DHB Chief Executives, we respond further on this matter.

With reference to point 1 we clarify in respect of patient flow in Christchurch Hospital Emergency Department since the CDHB report was written. It would be fair to say that there have been some significant difficulties with periods where the movement of patients from the Emergency Department to in-patient wards has been delayed with consequent overcrowding. Work on improving flow continues. The Surgical Acute Assessment Unit will open later this year along with other ward initiatives to improve flow. The Emergency Department team has initiated project RED which is targeted at resolving these problems. Planning is advanced. In addition, the Board has recently approved a significant capital project to improve the Emergency Department space and environment.

Yours sincerely



Nigel Millar
Chief Medical Officer

cc Gordon Davies, Chief Executive
Greg Brogden, Senior Corporate Solicitor