

2 April 2019

Thank you for your request received on 22 March 2019 via The Ministry of Health, requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding sterilisation incidents. You requested:

*"I would like a detailed breakdown of any and all incidents relating to equipment not being properly sterilised by District Health Boards in 2018 and 2019.*

*And I ask that anything within the spirit of this request that is not mentioned be included in the response."*

The information pertaining to your request is below.

The Central Sterilising Department (CSSD) at Hutt Valley DHB has had zero sterilising load failures in 2018 and 2019 whereby Reusable Medical Devices have not been properly sterilised. There have been autoclave cycle failures during routine daily testing of the machines but none where instruments have been involved.

CSSD at Hutt Valley DHB are one of only a limited number of DHB's which run a fully integrated Tracking and Traceability system which captures all the data relating to the whole process of medical device reprocessing through decontamination, inspection, packing, sterilisation, storage and patient use. The autoclaves produce printouts detailing all aspects of the cycle in real time as it is occurring as well as an on board screen which permits the operator to observe its function. This information is also collected into an electronic logging system. No load is released from the autoclaves until the printouts have been sighted and verified. The load is then released electronically via the tracking system. Should any part of the process not be complete the tracking system has lock out check points which will prevent the next step in the process occurring.