

CORPORATE OFFICE

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24 September 2018

[REDACTED]

Official information Act request CDHB 9929 and WCDHB 9200

We refer to your letter dated 27 August 2018 requesting information under the Official Information Act (OIA) from Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB. In summary, your request was for all and any information held by the Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB concerning, arising out of or relating to our duty to take urgent steps to appoint additional staff required to implement the safer rosters provided by Schedule Ten of the NZRDA and District Health Boards Multi Employer Agreement (13 February 2017 – 28 February 2018).

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the OIA. The information you seek would require a search through the emails, personal drives and hard copy files of upwards of 100 of our staff, across 28 services and various locations, and we anticipate a significant volume of information exists – likely thousands of items of information, given the wide scope of your request.

We estimate that it would take well in excess of 150 hours of staff time to search for and collate the information, and that this would need to be undertaken by staff who are familiar with the documentation and its background, taking them away from their usual work roles. In particular, it would require taking key staff away from our annual RMO recruitment, which includes recruitment of additional RMOs to meet Schedule 10 requirements.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to your request would be helpful, as required by section 18A of the OIA. However, given the likely cost to you if we were to charge (at the rate of \$38 per half hour after the first hour – in line with the guidelines) and the significant impact on key staff if we extend the time frame, we do not consider this would assist.

We have also considered consulting with you, as required by section 18B of the OIA however, given the nature of the request and the significant amount of information we do not consider it possible to redefine the scope to such a degree that would not involve a substantial amount of work for both Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB to collate and provide the information.

If you disagree with our decision in refusing this request you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek an investigation and review of our decision from the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB websites after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support