

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

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Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160

Fax: 0064 3 364 4165

Ralph.Lasalle@cdhb.health.nz

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10376

I refer to your email dated 4 August 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding a Press front page story about a secret meeting to discuss staff numbers.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/122328114/canterbury-dhb-calls-emergency-meeting-over-staffing-numbers-loses-two-senior-executives>. Specifically:

- 1. When were EY contracted to undertake that study, and when was it completed?**
- 2. What was the cost to Canterbury DHB of that contract with EY?**

The Canterbury DHB engaged Ernst Young on 27 May 2020 to provide consultancy services relating to "Independent assessment of taskforce work programme". The estimated cost recorded in this contract is \$228,000 excluding GST and disbursements.

The Ernst Young review/report dated 30 June 2020 remains subject to ongoing review/verification/discussions between Canterbury DHB and Ernst Young. It also forms the basis of ongoing discussions between Canterbury DHB, the Ministry of Health and the Minister of Health (including relating to the 2020/21 Annual Plan that is yet to be finalised and approved by the Minister).

- 3. Why did the Canterbury DHB not use its own staff to provide an explanation as to why Staff costs "are a major driver of its operational deficit?"**

We do not believe this question comes under the Official Information Act and is asking us to generate an opinion. We are therefore declining a response to this question.

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

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

Yours sincerely



Ralph La Salle

Acting Executive Director

Planning, Funding & Decision Support