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9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10353

I refer to your email dated 8 July 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

1. **What percentage of your usual clinical workforce is overseas-trained?**
2. **If possible, please provide percentages of overseas-trained staffers in each of these categories: doctors, nurses, midwives, and allied health, science and technical professionals.**

This information is not held in a central electronic data system and to provide this information would require us to manually review individual employment files which would entail a substantial amount of time and resource. We are therefore declining a response to these two questions pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

3. **What impact do you expect border restrictions to have on the DHB workforce over the next year?**
4. **Are there specialities likely to be under pressure as a result of border restrictions? For example, because there is a small workforce in New Zealand or because of overseas training needs. If so, which specialities?**

We do not believe these two questions come under the Official Information Act and you are asking us for speculative opinion. We don't hold any information that would enable us to respond to these two questions.

5. **Is your DHB currently recruiting for any clinical positions which you cannot fill with New Zealand applicants?**
6. **If so, how many, and what is/are the positions?**

We recruit nationally and internationally; however, we cannot identify which of the vacancies/positions listed below cannot be filled with New Zealand applicants. We cannot provide specific number of FTE vacant as we are continually needing these staff, so we run rolling advertisements.

- Clinical Manager, Occupational Therapy
- Allied Health Professional (Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, Psychologists) – Crisis Resolution (SMHS)
- Qualified Anesthetic Technicians
- Social Workers – Acute (ED/ICU/AMAU – Trauma and Care and Protection)
- Registered Nurses – Specialist Mental Health Service.
- Senior Medical Officer (SMO) – it is estimated that we recruit approximately 75% of these internationally

7. **Have you had any overseas-trained and recruited clinicians cut contracts short and return home because of Covid?**
8. **If so, how many, and in what category (doctor, nurse...)?**

We do not hold information pertaining to reasons a contract is terminated nor whether the contract was terminated prematurely because of Covid, in a central electronic data system and to provide this information would require a manual search of personal employment files which would entail substantial time and resource. We are therefore declining to provide this information pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by 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 website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director,
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