

## CORPORATE OFFICE

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9(2)(a)

### RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10636

I refer to your email to the Ministry of Health dated 28 April 2021, and subsequently partially transferred through to us on 17 June 2021, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

#### Since the inception of Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) Units;

- **How many people staying in MIQ facilities have sought assistance from Ministry of Health mental health teams that operate on-site during the same period (16/03/2020 – 16/04/2021)?**

Canterbury DHB does not contain records of all mental health services and treatment given to those in Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) facilities. We only contain a record of those from MIQ facilities who were referred to Specialist Mental Health Services for inpatient care, of which there were 3 individuals referred during the period 16/03/2020 to 16/04/2021.

- **How many prescriptions/doses of anti-anxiety medications such as Xanax (alprazolam), Klonopin (clonazepam), Valium (diazepam), and Ativan (lorazepam) have been distributed to patients in MIQ units? (16/03/2020 – 16/04/2021)**

Canterbury DHB has obtained the following information from the Pegasus 24 Hour Surgery, which provides primary care for people in MIQ facilities on behalf of the DHB. Please refer to **Table One** below, which shows the number of prescriptions written for Clonazepam, Diazepam and Lorazepam between June 2020 and June 2021.

**Table One: Number of prescriptions written by medication from June 2020 to June 2021.**

Medication	Number of Patients	Number of Doses
CLONAZEPAM	9	80
DIAZEPAM	39	581
LORAZEPAM	18	202

**Please note:** No prescriptions were written for Alprazolam during the period March 2020 to April 2021 for people in MIQ facilities.

- How much has the Ministry of Health spent on medications and non-Covid related health matters for people staying in MIQ facilities? (16/03/2020 – 16/04/2021)

Medications have been dispensed 11,717 times for people staying in MIQ facilities within Canterbury, at an estimated total cost of \$165,299 (excluding GST) over the period June 2020 to May 2021. Please refer to **Table Two** below for a breakdown by month of dispensings, medicines subsidies and service fees for people staying in Canterbury MIQ facilities.

**Please note:** Canterbury DHB currently only holds data for medication expenditure in MIQ facilities from June 2020 to May 2021, so we are unable to provide you with data from previous months. We are therefore declining to provide a response for months March – April 2020, pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *“that the information requested is not held...”*

**Table Two: Medication dispensings, subsidies and estimated service fees for people in Canterbury MIQ facilities.**

Year	Month	Number of Dispensings	Medicine subsidy (excluding GST)	Estimated dispensing and other service fees (excluding GST)	Estimated total cost (excluding GST)
2020	June	792	\$3,117	\$7,888	\$11,004
	July	955	\$3,988	\$8,588	\$12,575
	August	907	\$3,711	\$8,123	\$11,834
	September	843	\$2,883	\$11,184	\$14,068
	October	1,067	\$3,745	\$10,865	\$14,609
	November	1,145	\$4,015	\$11,473	\$15,489
	December	960	\$3,696	\$10,217	\$13,913
2021	January	867	\$3,074	\$8,276	\$11,350
	February	1,101	\$3,734	\$11,919	\$15,653
	March	1,100	\$4,541	\$12,192	\$16,733
	April	1,050	\$3,805	\$11,825	\$15,630
	May	930	\$3,422	\$9,019	\$12,441
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,717</b>	<b>\$43,730</b>	<b>\$121,568</b>	<b>\$165,299</b>

Canterbury DHB has spent a total of \$15,809,936 (excluding GST) on delivering healthcare to people in Canterbury MIQ facilities from June 2020 to May 2021. Please refer to **Table Three** below for a breakdown of this expenditure by month.

**Please note:** it is not possible to isolate expenditure on non-COVID related health matters from expenditure on healthcare arising from COVID-19 illness, therefore the total (combined) expenditure has been presented instead. We are therefore declining to provide a more detailed response to this part of the request, pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *“that the information requested is not held...”*

**Table Three: Canterbury DHB expenditure on delivering healthcare for people in MIQ facilities.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Expenditure (excluding GST)</b>
<b>2020</b>	May & June	\$1,182,706
	July & August	\$2,088,217
	September	\$1,763,858
	October	\$1,078,871
	November	\$1,003,700
	December	\$1,254,696
<b>2021</b>	January	\$1,201,798
	February	\$1,091,737
	March	\$2,856,400
	April	\$1,237,722
	May	\$1,050,231
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,809,936</b>

I trust that 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](http://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



Tracey Maisey  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**