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22 September 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10398

I refer to your email dated 26 August 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- 1. All requests for reports by the board chair or any board member to EY since July 16, 2020**
- 2. All reports provided to the board by EY since July 16, 2020.**

The Ernst Young (EY) review/report (30 June 2020) is 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 yet to be finalised and approved by the Minister).

We are therefore declining your request pursuant to sections 9(2)(i) and (j) of the Official Information Act i.e. *(i) ... enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; or (j)enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)*

- 3. All correspondence, including texts, emails, and conversations between Minister of Health Chris Hipkins and Board Chair, Sir John Hansen, from August 21-26.**

There is no correspondence between Sir John Hansen and the Minister of Health during the dates requested. On a "no surprises" basis Sir John called the Minister to update him on the resignations and plans to deal with them.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R La Salle'.

Ralph La Salle
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support