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15 May 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10297 and WCDHB 9415

We refer to your email sent to the Ministry of Health on 13 March 2020 and which they subsequently partially transferred to Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB on 7 April 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act. Specifically question 1:

1. **Please advise re any internal legal costs regarding Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB**

Canterbury DHB

Canterbury DHB employs lawyers and other legally qualified staff in its legal team. The salary cost for five staff (three of whom are part time) totals approximately \$569,000. The legal team resource works across a range of services, of which around 60% relate to legal advice (contract/commercial and medico legal advice) with the balance to other services including insurance; Privacy; police liaison, information management compliance and OIA support. As such, we estimate that around \$340,000 of the legal team resource relates to 'internal legal costs'.

Canterbury DHB also has legally qualified employees in its Employment Relations team, the total salary costs for four staff (two of whom are part time) is approximately \$472,000. As with the legal team, the employment relations team provides resource across a range of services of which approximately 60% relates to legal advice (employment disputes, contract and statutory interpretation) with the balance relating to other services including union engagement; strike and contingency planning, collective bargaining, process improvement, training and capability development and support to the wider People and Capability team. As such, we estimate that around \$283,200 of the employment relations team resource relates to 'internal legal costs'.

West Coast DHB

West Coast DHB does not pay internal legal costs. Canterbury DHB provides legal and employment relations support (together with a range of other support services such as finance and IT) to West Coast DHB as part of an executive support arrangement for which a fee is paid by West Coast DHB.

I trust that 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 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 flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support