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9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10200

I refer to your email, dated 16 October 2019, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

- 1. The total amount of debt incurred by the District Health Board in treating ineligible patients or those from overseas for the financial years of 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/18, and 2018/19.**

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the total annual amount invoiced for treatment of people not eligible for publicly funded health services in New Zealand.

Table one: Canterbury DHB

	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/18	2018/19
Total amount invoiced in the year	2,928,087	3,335,327	2,676,651	2,909,581	3,340,928

Note:

- Financial year is from 1 July to 30 June
- Above amounts are GST exclusive

- 2. A breakdown of the number of patients who incurred these debts, (the totals as above) for the financial years of 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19.**

Table two: Canterbury DHB

	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/18	2018/19
Total number of patients in the year	559	606	576	572	701

Note:

- Financial year is from 1 July to 30 June

3. Can the DHB then please also advise what happens to these debts incurred by ineligible patients? Are they struck out? Does the DHB cover the costs - how does this process work?

- Patients are identified based on their eligibility for publicly funded healthcare in New Zealand in accordance with the Health and Disability Services Eligibility Direction 2011.
- All healthcare that is provided to patients who are not eligible for publicly funded healthcare by Canterbury DHB is invoiced to that patient.
- Recovery of debt is in line with Canterbury DHB's credit management policies and procedures.
- Unpaid invoices (bad debts) will be referred to a collection agency.

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 website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Melissa Macfarlane
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support