



28 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Information about occupational therapists

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 15 September 2020 seeking information regarding occupational therapists from Waitematā DHB.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

1. The actual number of occupational therapists – i.e. headcount.

As at 21 September 2020, there were 169 occupational therapists at Waitematā DHB.

2. The number of occupational therapists on each salary step.

Step	Count
16	1-3*
14	1-3*
13	1-3*
12	17
11	9
10	19
9	21
8	23
7	23
6	10
5	7
4	9
3	5
2	13
1	7
Total	169

- * Where there are three or fewer occupational therapists on any particular salary step, we have withheld the exact number on the particular step and instead stated a range of 1-3. We have withheld the exact number to protect the privacy of the occupational therapists involved as stating the exact number would be likely to make the individual occupational therapists and their salaries identifiable. Withholding to protect the privacy of individuals is permitted under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982.

You are entitled to complain to the Ombudsman about our decision to withhold this information. The Ombudsman's contact details can be found at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

3. The amount of annual leave taken by occupational therapists in 2018.

For the calendar year 2018, occupational therapists took a combined 11,388 hours of annual leave.

4. The amount of annual leave taken by occupational therapists in 2019.

For the calendar year 2019, occupational therapists took a combined 11,200 hours of annual leave.

5. In regard to continuing professional development for DHB-employed occupational therapists:

- a. The total budget of CPD and amount spent for the 2018 financial year
- b. The total budget of CPD and amount spent for the 2019 financial year
- c. The amount of days approved and taken as CPD/study leave in 2018
- d. The amount of days approved and taken as CPD/study leave in 2019.

Occupational therapy staff have access to the DHB's Professional Development Fund for personal professional development/education. The figures provided below cover all amounts paid to occupational therapists for training and related study leave, professional costs and memberships.

Financial year	2018/19	2019/20
Budget	\$50,909	\$50,909
Actual	\$69,398	\$60,957
Number of days approved and taken	343 days	281.13 days

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely

Fiona McCarthy
Director Human Resources
Waitematā District Health Board