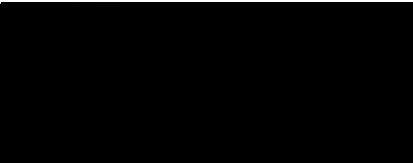




Waitematā
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

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28 October 2020



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Spend on locum services in specific departments

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 30 September 2020 requesting information from Waitematā DHB about spend on locum services in specific departments.

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. What has the DHB spent on locums for medical specialists every year for the past five years in the following departments:**
 - General surgery
 - Orthopaedics
 - Enterology
 - Gynaecology
 - Ophthalmology
 - Urology
 - Cardiology

Could I please have the total locum spend year-by-year over this period, as well as the total internal staff spend on specialists for the same periods?

Please note that the following locum costs make up a small proportion of Senior Medical Officer (SMO) payroll costs and total funding budget of \$1.846 billion.

Locum SMO costs		Financial year			
Service	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
General Surgery	164,077	283,488	116,937	211,537	115,210
Orthopaedics	15,020	57,826	3,226	39,788	36,900
Gastroenterology ¹	-		2,275	5,630	
Gynaecology ²	127,952	118,117	102,051	138,515	174,999
Ophthalmology	-	46,920	18,434	7,410	
Urology	-	-	-	57,793	3,625
Cardiology	-	23,880	1,076	27,558	47,328
Total	307,049	506,351	242,923	460,673	330,734

¹ We have interpreted the term 'Enterology' as being 'Gastroenterology'.
² Our information for Gynaecology includes Obstetrics as our SMOs work across both specialties and this information cannot be readily separated.

Payroll SMO costs		Financial year			
Service	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
General Surgery	2,232,039	2,211,064	2,230,045	2,338,148	2,515,635
Orthopaedics	2,261,296	2,335,507	2,866,328	3,054,207	3,289,910
Gastroenterology ¹	1,095,719	1,087,998	1,269,326	1,371,016	1,642,084
Gynaecology ²	3,215,523	3,280,364	2,987,771	3,675,499	4,207,305
Ophthalmology	56,274	41,195	-	-	-
Urology	443,493	385,172	570,067	716,856	788,665
Cardiology	1,857,728	1,912,425	2,111,233	2,270,082	2,423,843
Total	9,304,344	9,341,300	9,923,537	11,155,726	12,443,599

¹ We have interpreted the term 'Enterology' as being 'Gastroenterology'.
² Our information for Gynaecology includes Obstetrics as our SMOs work across both specialties and can't be readily separated.

2. What is the size of the population the DHB serves and what is its annual operating budget?

The population the Waitematā DHB provides services to is estimated at 630,000-plus residents.

The Waitematā DHB 2019/20 annual funding/budget is \$1,846,061,000 (source: Ministry of Health revenue data) - see schedule 2; cell C20 of the link below:

https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/schedule_ye_30_june_2020_un-audited.xlsx

- 3. It would also be helpful to have explanations for higher (or lower) than usual locum costs for particular periods and whether or not the DHB offers limited services in respective departments.**

Some of the lower-than-usual locum costs in 2019/20 are due to a combination of non-urgent (elective) planned care being suspended during the COVID-19 response and reduced staffing vacancies that have resulted from a less-transient work population due to the pandemic.

Other variations in locum spend across years can be attributed to cover for a range of leave requirements such as sickness, maternity leave and study leave as well as the availability of suitably qualified SMOs for particular specialties or sub-specialties.

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