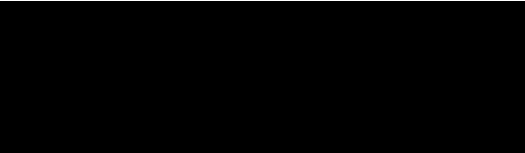




Waitemata
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

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10 October 2018



Dear 

RE: Official Information Act request – MECA Schedule 10

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 27 August 2018 seeking the following of Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

1. *A precise description of each and every step taken since 13 February 2017 by the DHB and by the DHB's agents to discharge the DHB's duty to "take urgent steps to appoint additional staff required to implement [safer] rosters" provided by Schedule Ten of the MECA, including the date or dates on which each such step was taken.*
2. *Any and all documents evidencing or in any way related to the additional steps (if any) taken by the DHB since 13 February 2017 to recruit and appoint RMOs to implement the safer rosters provided by Schedule Ten of the MECA, including but not limited to:*
 - (i) any and all publications, roadshows, advertisements, and other activities undertaken by the DHB in New Zealand and/or overseas for that purpose;*
 - (ii) any and all communications with NZREX doctors, with New Zealand citizens expected to be graduating from Australian Medical Schools, and with New Zealand Medical School graduates working outside of New Zealand, for that purpose.*
3. *Any and all documents including but not limited to internal and external correspondence and communications (such as emails, letters, faxes, memoranda, notes, records or minutes of meetings), concerning, arising out of, or relating to the DHB's obligation under Schedule Ten of the MECA, to "take urgent steps to appoint the number of additional staff required to implement [safer] rosters", and/or to the discharge of that duty by the DHB.*
4. *Any and all financial statements or other documents evidencing or in any way concerning any budgetary or other financial provision made by the DHB since 13 February 2017 for the appointment of additional RMOs, or for any restructuring, or other arrangements (including but not limited to arrangements for the appointment of relievers, and arrangements for addressing shortages in the RMO workforce either pre-existing or anticipated) for the purpose of discharging its obligation under Schedule Ten of the MECA to "take urgent steps to appoint the number of additional staff required to implement [safer] rosters".*

This has been a large, complex and time-consuming response that has taken in excess of 80 hours to coordinate. From the very outset, Waitemata DHB has worked closely with the other Northern Region

DHBs and Northern Regional Alliance – our shared services agency for rostering and recruitment of resident medical officers - to ensure all relevant information is being provided.

On 10 September, DHBs received national advice following a discussion with yourself to the effect that you were unwilling to refine the scope of your request in order to make the request more manageable for DHBs to respond to.

After further consideration and discussion, on 17 September, Waitemata DHB notified you of an extension to the response deadline to 12 October 2018.

On 19 September, following further communication from yourself, Waitemata DHB reiterated that a time extension was required to collate the information sought to avoid adversely interfering with the DHB's operations by diverting key staff away from their day-to-day work.

In answer to your questions, please see attached the requested information. The information is bundled as follows:

1. Information provided by Waitemata DHB in response to Questions 3-4.
2. The Auckland region annual recruitment cycle 2017 and 2018 and advertising campaigns 2017 and 2018, provided by Northern Regional Alliance, should be read as the DHB's response to Questions 1-2.
3. Information provided by the DHB's agent, Northern Regional Alliance, in response to Questions 1-4.

Some information in this response has been redacted. The information redacted falls outside the scope of your request and is, therefore, not provided under the Official Information Act.

We further note your correspondence with Northern Regional Alliance on 8 October in which you indicated NZRDA believed the metro Auckland DHBs had breached the rights of your members with regard to taking urgent steps to advance the appointment of additional staff to required to implement Schedule 10 rosters.

Waitemata DHB rejects this assertion and trusts that the detail provided in this response will serve to properly inform NZRDA about the significant and complex work undertaken to date to implement the new rosters.

Waitemata DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's 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 feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

We hope this reply satisfies your request.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona McCarthy
Director Human Resources
Waitemata District Health Board