



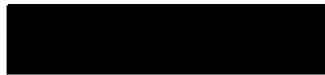
Waitematā
District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

DHB Board Office

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26 August 2020



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Payments to medical colleges on behalf of medical practitioners

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 21 July seeking information about payments to medical colleges on behalf of medical practitioners from Waitematā District Health Board (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:

We are requesting, under the Official Information Act, the total sum paid to each medical college by your DHB on behalf of all medical practitioners. For the avoidance of doubt, this is sums paid by the DHB directly to medical colleges and through reimbursements on behalf of Senior Medical Officers (SMOs) and Resident Medical Officers (RMOs).

We contacted you on 31 July to advise which aspects of the information requested we were able to provide.

After further discussion by email, we advised the following on 10 August:

Waitematā DHB can provide all sums paid. [Payments outside of this request might include meals, travel, parking etc.]

The Northern Regional Alliance (NRA) has advised it can provide data for RMOs for the following:

- examinations
- courses

- conferences
- college fees.

That same day you confirmed:

All sums paid to SMOs and the information the NRA is able to provide as set out in your email are acceptable.

The sum for payments made to medical colleges and through reimbursements is higher for RMOs than SMOs due to the following:

- the larger number of RMOs employed by Waitematā DHB compared with SMOs
- the larger number of colleges that are paid for RMOs compared with SMOs
- the wider range of expenses covered for RMOs, including examination fees.

Information relating to SMOs is provided by Waitematā DHB as follows:

Payments made directly to colleges or through reimbursements to Waitematā DHB-employed SMOs for FY 2019/2020	
Medical college	Sum of Amount
Australian College for Emergency Medicine	\$1,725
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists	\$152,868
New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine	\$14,518
The Royal Australasian College of Physicians	\$230,161
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	\$136,503
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	\$54,101
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists	\$138,571
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists	\$86,141
The Royal College of Pathologists of Australia	\$1,802
The College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand	Nil
The Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators	Nil
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists	Nil
Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians	Nil
Grand Total	\$816,392

As outlined above, the information relating to RMOs is provided by the NRA and includes payments for:

- examinations
- courses
- conferences
- college fees
- expenses reimbursed directly to medical colleges and through reimbursement to RMOs.

It excludes:

- payments made to other organisations that are not medical colleges
- where there has been doubt in the instance of reimbursements paid to RMOs, the invoice has been checked and where the invoice has not been issued by a medical college it has been excluded.

RMO reimbursements are processed on a regional basis by the NRA and charged back to the DHBs on a percentage-split basis each month, dependent on RMO headcount by DHB across the region. The percentage split for each month has been reviewed and the average for the year has been used to identify each DHB's cost.

Information relating to Waitematā DHB-employed RMOs is provided by the NRA as follows:

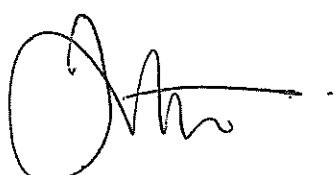
Payments made directly to colleges or through reimbursements to Waitematā DHB-employed RMOs for FY 2019/2020	
Medical college	Sum of Amount
Australian College of Emergency Medicine	\$47,628.04
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists	\$195,512.62
New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine	\$495.82
The Royal Australasian College of Physicians	\$373,891.15
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	\$424,040.40
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists	\$90,384.51
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists	\$35,829.46
The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists	\$92,282.80
The Royal College of Pathologists of Australia	\$24,247.89
The College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand	\$17,131.14
The Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators	\$1,095.79
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists	\$14,099.04
Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians	\$550.95
Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgery	\$3,966.20
Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners	\$1,560.00
Grand total	\$1,322,715.80

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



Jonathan Christiansen
Chief Medical Officer
Waitematā District Health Board