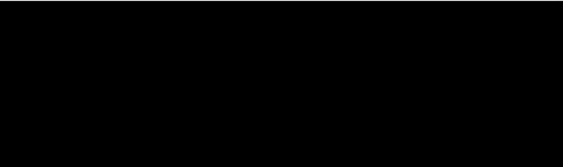




14 December 2021



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – The use of Ernst & Young for projects and other work

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 18 November seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about the use of Ernst & Young for financial years 2014-2021.

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

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

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

- 1. In each of the financial years ended 30 June 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 were Ernst & Young (EY New Zealand) engaged by the DHB to undertake any reviews, projects or other activities or work (excluding repatriation work arising out of the application of the Holidays Act), what was the purpose of each review, project, or other activity or work and how much was paid to EY for each review, project, or other activity or work?**

Information about the nature and cost of work Ernst & Young has been engaged by Waitematā DHB for is provided in the table below. It should be noted that, with the exception of the Health and Safety capital project, these works relate to the DHB's operating expenditure, which averages about \$2 billion per year. District health boards (DHBs) are required to budget and operate within allocated funding and to identify specific actions to improve year-on-year financial performance in order to live within their means.

Improvements through national, regional and sub-regional initiatives continue to be a focus for all DHBs, which must also adhere to the Government rules of sourcing.

Table 1: Waitematā DHB engagement of Ernst & Young for financial years 2014-2021*

\$'000								
Expense type	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
Financial Sustainability Programme support	0	0	0	0	0	31	308	0
Professional Accounting reviews and advice	0	0	0	0	0	52	5	0
Advice for Health and Safety capital project	0	42	6	0	0	0	0	0
Other professional support	0	0	0	0	0	13	8	0
Other professional support – regional projects	0	8	0	0	319	59	57	115
Theatre workforce modelling – regional project	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Professional Tax advice	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	0

*Includes regional projects with the four Northern region DHBs – Waitematā, Auckland, Counties Manukau and Northland.

2. Is Ernst & Young (EY New Zealand) presently engaged by the DHB to undertake any reviews, projects or other activities or work (excluding repatriation work arising out of the application of the Holidays Act), what was the purpose of review, project, or other activity or work, when did each review, project, or other activity or work first commence and what is the amount to be paid to EY for each review, project, or other activity or work when completed?

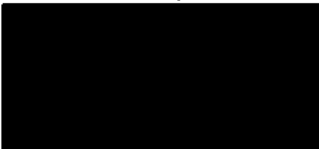
Ernst & Young is not presently engaged for Waitematā DHB-specific work. A current contract for the four Northern region DHBs is in place for a Demand and Services Continuity Tactical Response Plan at an estimated cost of \$95,000 (not yet paid), to be shared across the four DHBs.

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



**Executive Director Finance, People and Planning
Waitematā District Health Board**