

Richard James

By email: [fyi-request-15251-6835d8c0@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15251-6835d8c0@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202104834

Dear Richard James

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 22 April 2021 for:

*"I request information regarding additional payments made to all Air Ambulance providers by the Ministry of Health or District Health Boards during the period April 2020 to April 2021.*

*This request is for details on payments to providers over and above individual patient transfers i.e. any payment made irrespective of work done, particularly with regard to payments that may have been requested by providers during lockdown.*

*'Air Ambulance provider' refers both to those contracted to provide rotary wing services through the National Ambulance Sector Office (NASO) & those providing fixed wing services for DHB transfers. This includes, but is not limited to payments made to GCH Aviation, Skyline Aviation, Life Flight, Northland Helicopters, Air Whanganui etc.*

*Please provide details of any payments broken down by:*

- Date paid*
- Amount paid*
- Name of provider to whom it was paid"*

The information you have requested regarding payments made by the Ministry to rotary wing providers contain commercially sensitive information, and information that may prejudice subsequent negotiations. As such, your request has been refused in full under sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(j) of the Act.

Additionally, information relating to fixed wing services for district health board (DHB) transfers, is not held by the Ministry. Although this information is held by the individual DHBs and could be transferred to them, it may be more practical for you to submit a further request to the relevant DHBs you wish to receive information from.

A list of providers that received funding as part of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funding Packaging can be found here: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/system/files/2020-05/b20-sum-initiatives-crrf.pdf>.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Yours sincerely



Carleine Receveur

**Acting Group Manager, Primary Health Care System Improvement and Innovation  
Health System Improvement and Innovation**