



PO Box 25496 Wellington 6146 New Zealand

T: +64 4 901 6040 F: +64 4 901 6079 E: info@hqsc.govt.nz W: www.hqsc.govt.nz

25 August 2021

John Luke

By email: mailto:fyi-request-16471-d5626bea@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe John

Your Official Information Act request – Reference HQSC162-2021

1. Thank you for your email of 22 August 2021 to the Child and Youth Mortality Review Committee (the **Committee**) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (**OIA**):

May I kindly request the full meeting minute of this Committee from 1st Jan 2020 to now. Also, May I kindly request the pay rate of each members (how much they been paid per day or is it a hourly rate?) and any other expense reimbursements that each member received since 1st Jan 2020.

- 2. The Committee is declining the first part of your request to provide full meeting minutes from 1 January 2020 because of the personally identifiable, confidential nature of the information that it collates; and therefore may be contained in the minutes.
- 3. For your information, the Committee is not subject to the OIA. That is provided for in paragraph (a) of the definition of "organisation" in section 2 of the OIA, the relevant part of which states that an organisation means "an organisation named in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Ombudsmen Act 1975 (other than mortality review committees)...".
- 4. The Committee is also prevented by law from disclosing personal information, which may be held within what you have requested. Section 59E and Schedule 5 of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 sets out strict requirements as to the use and disclosure of personal information held by a mortality review committee. In particular, clause 4 of Schedule 5 prohibits members, executive officers, and agents of a mortality review committee from producing or disclosing personal information to another person, unless an exception applies. Under section 59E(6) and (7) of the Act, individuals can be fined up to \$10,000 and be subject to professional disciplinary proceedings if they produce or disclose personal information held by a mortality review committee other than in accordance with the requirements of the NZPHD Act. Accordingly, the MRC cannot provide you with the information you have requested.

- 5. In regards to the second part of your request concerning the pay rate of each member, the Committee member's fees are set with reference to the <u>Cabinet Fees Framework</u>¹, as outlined in the Committee's Terms of Reference. These and other reimbursements are paid by the Health Quality and Safety Commission. The Committee is unable to respond further to this request.
- 6. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Dr Alayne Mikahere-Hall

Co-Chair

Dr Matthew Reid

Co-Chair

Child and Youth Mortality Review Committee

¹ Cabinet Fees Framework https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/our-work/fees/#:~:text=Guidance%20on%20fees%20paid%20to,Fees%20Framework%20(the%20Framework)