

23 July 2014

Bronwyn Pullar
fyi-request-1784-6cdb9b71@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Pullar

Official Information Act Request

I refer to your request of 4 July 2014, seeking the following under the Official Information Act (Act):

The citations and ACC project names for all research, studies and ACC projects, conducted from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2012, which involved the use of personal/unique identifiers (e.g., NHI Number, ACC Claim Number, ACC45 Number, Date of Injury, ACC Claim Dates, Date of Birth, First Name, Last Name, Address) to link external health datasets (e.g., General Practice data, Primary Health Care data, HealthStat data, Health Tracker data, Ministry of Health's National Minimum Dataset data (NMDS), National Health Index, Health Practitioners Index, et al) with ACC claim datasets.

Search Limitations

Your request is for a very broad and substantial amount of information which would require a significant amount of work. Due to this, ACC is considering refusing this request under section 18(f) of the Act on the grounds that to provide you with the information would involve substantial collation and research.

However, if you are able to refine your request or advise specific projects or research, ACC would be better able to provide you information that is of interest to you. We request that a refined version of your request is provided to ACC by 30 July 2014.

General Information

You may find the following information helpful in deciding if and how to refine your request.

ACC and the Ministry of Health (MoH) uses ACC claims information and the National Minimum dataset (NMDS) to identify and determine ACC claim costs for services provided by DHBs. This involves matching NHI's, ACC45 numbers, names, dates of birth, and comparing accident dates with hospital admission and discharge dates. The information obtained is used for budgeting purposes as ACC bulk funds MoH/DHBs costs as part of Public Health Acute Services. This is prescribed in ACC's governing legislation. This matching is only used for this purpose, and ACC is not able to use this information for any other purpose. DHBs are also provided with information to enable them to correctly apportion cases to ACC. Only information related to a particular DHB is provided to them.

ACC provides claims information to Statistics NZ as the official Injury Information Manager as prescribed through legislation. Statistics NZ match this information to the NMDS dataset to determine the seriousness of particular injuries for statistical purposes. These are then published in the annual Serious Injury Official Information indicators. An anonymised dataset derived from that provided by ACC is also used by Statistics NZ to populate the IDI (Integrated Data Infrastructure) which also contains other government agency information. This is only used for policy research purposes.

It should also be noted that research conducted by ACC is subject to robust ethical standards. ACC has a committee and a set of guidelines to ensure these requirements are met. More information on the ACC Research Ethics Committee and guidelines can be found on ACC's website at the following link:

<http://www.acc.co.nz/about-acc/research-sponsorship-and-projects/research-and-development/ABA00043>

Please contact me on **Claire.Stearne@acc.co.nz** if you would like to discuss this letter. I will be happy to answer any questions or, if you have any concerns, work with you to resolve these.

If you are not happy, you may make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. You can call them on 0800 802 602, 9am to 5pm weekdays, or write to:

The Office of the Ombudsman
P O Box 10 152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Claire Stearne
Team Manager, Government Services