

28 June 2022

J. Thomas-Maude

By email to: fyi-request-19497-9488506e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: **Official Information Request – PGY1 House Officer Positions - Auckland DHB Ref. 20220530-1234**

I refer to your official information request dated 30 May 2022, seeking the following information:

I would like to make a request under the Official Information Act (1982) for the following data. Please could I ask that all the data be broken down year by year, rather than as a total for all the years in question.

- 1. The total number of PGY1 House Officer positions filled by the ACE matching system for each year between 2018 and 2022, and a breakdown of these by country of training of the candidate (e.g. New Zealand, Australia).**
- 2. The total number of PGY1 House Officer positions filled in by NZREX graduates for each year between 2018 and 2022.**
- 3. The total number of PGY1 House Officer positions filled in by candidates from a Comparable Health System (e.g. U.K., Ireland, U.S.A., Canada etc.) for each year between 2018 and 2022.**
- 4. The total number of PGY1 House Officer positions that were available and advertised outside of the ACE matching system for each year between 2014 and 2022 (please note this is a wider time range than the three requests above).**

Response

Please note:

- This response covers all appointments up to 31 May 2022.
- Prior to 2021, the House Officer training year which includes PGY1 positions commenced in November each year.
- In 2020 the Registered Medical Officer (RMO) training year dates changed from November each year to January each year. As part of the transition this resulted in the end date for the 2019/2020 training year being changed from 29/11/2020 to 17/01/2021.
- The Advanced Choice of Employment (ACE) matching process is completed prior to the commencement of the RMO training year and in responding to this OIA we have provided details on which training year the ACE process relates to for the year specified.
- The training year dates covered by the information requested in your OIA were as follows:

Training Year	Dates	ACE Process (Year)
2014/2015 Training Year	25/11/2014 to 23/11/2015	2014
2015/2016 Training Year	23/11/2015 to 27/11/2016	2015
2016/2017 Training Year	28/11/2016 to 26/11/2017	2016
2017/2018 Training Year	27/11/2017 to 25/11/2018	2017
2018/2019 Training Year	26/11/2018 to 24/11/2019	2018
2019/2020 Training Year	25/11/2019 to 17/01/2021	2019
2021 Training Year	18/01/2021 to 16/01/2022	2020
2022 Training Year	17/01/2022 to 15/01/2023	2021

1. The total number of PGY1 House Officer positions filled by the ACE matching system for each year between 2018 and 2022, and a breakdown of these by country of training of the candidate (e.g. New Zealand, Australia).

Training Year Dates	ACE Process	NZ	Australia	Total Auckland DHB
27/11/2017 to 25/11/2018	2017	49	2	51
26/11/2018 to 24/11/2019	2018	60	0	60
25/11/2019 to 17/01/2021	2019	59	0	59
18/01/2021 to 16/01/2022	2020	64	0	64
17/01/2022 to 15/01/2023	2021	63	0	63

Question 2 – The total number of PGY1 House Officer positions filled in by NZREX graduates for each year between 2018 and 2022.

The following table provides Auckland DHB’s total number of PGY1 House Officer positions filled by NZREX graduates hired by year from 2018 to 2022 and includes all new appointments up to 31 May 2022).

Training Year	Training Year Dates	Auckland DHB
2017/2018	27/11/2017 to 25/11/2018	5
2018/2019	26/11/2018 to 24/11/2019	0
2019/2020	25/11/2019 to 17/01/2021	4
2021	18/01/2021 to 16/01/2022	2
2022	17/01/2022 to 15/01/2023	0

The following factors contributed to the higher number of NZREX appointments into PGY1 House Officer positions in the 2017/2018 training year:

- Significant growth in House Officer positions in the 2017/2018 training year as a result of the RMO Multi Employer Collective Agreement (MECA) settlement and implementation of MECA Schedule 10 and Schedule 12 (relief) commitments

- A total of nine House Officer Schedule 10 rosters implemented through the 2017/2018 training year which represented an increase of 28 FTE House Officer positions for Auckland DHB (Schedule 10 and Schedule 12)
- All of the 5 NZREX appointments were mid-year in Quarter 3 to fill vacancies as a result of the FTE growth.

3. The total number of PGY1 House Officer positions filled in by candidates from a Comparable Health System (e.g. U.K., Ireland, U.S.A., Canada etc.) for each year between 2018 and 2022.

The PGY1 positions filled by international medical graduates from comparable health countries (CHS) from 2018-2022 were Australian medical graduates. When determining comparable health countries, we have used the Medical Council of New Zealand list of comparable health countries. This includes all new appointments up to 31 May 2022 and excludes any PGY1 positions filled by NZREX.

Training Year	Training Year Dates	Auckland DHB
2017/2018	27/11/2017 to 25/11/2018	2
2018/2019	26/11/2018 to 24/11/2019	0
2019/2020	25/11/2019 to 17/01/2021	0
2021	18/01/2021 to 16/01/2022	0
2022	17/01/2022 to 15/01/2023	0

4. The total number of PGY1 House Officer positions that were available and advertised outside of the ACE matching system for each year between 2014 and 2022 (please note this is a wider time range than the three requests above).

Recruitment for RMO positions is undertaken regionally across the three Auckland metro DHBs (Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitematā DHBs) and this is facilitated by the Northern Regional Alliance.

Please note:

- Once a year the nationwide annual recruitment cycle (ARC) is used to coordinate external advertising for House Officer positions at PGY2/PGY2+ levels. Once a year the Auckland region recruits all of the required PGY1 positions via the ACE RMO process.
- PGY1 positions are reserved initially for New Zealand graduates from medical schools via the ACE process. Information regarding the national ACE matching process can be found on the ACE website <https://rmo.acenz.net.nz/>
- From time to time vacancies occur at PGY1 level during the training year and outside of the ACE process. NZREX graduates are considered where suitable for such vacancies. NZREX doctors are encouraged to register online at www.aucklanddoctors.co.nz and maintain an up to date CV and details to enable them to be considered when vacancies become available.
- Available vacant positions are advertised throughout the year on the Auckland Doctors website.

Please also note that prioritisation of preference criteria for any additional PGY1 positions not filled via the ACE match involves, reviewing the ACE talent pool of non-matched ACE candidates and NZREX who have applied to the Auckland region, in the order of:

- Category 1 – graduates from New Zealand medical schools who are citizens of New Zealand or Australia
- Category 2 – graduates from Australian medical schools who are citizens or permanent residents of New Zealand or Australia

- Category 3 – graduates from New Zealand medical schools but are not permanent residents or citizens
- NZREX applicants are prioritised on the basis of New Zealand Citizen/Permanent resident status

I trust this information answers your questions.

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.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael Shepherd
Acting Chief Executive