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30 September 2022

Anna Goodwin

By email: fyi-request-20242-c03c9c24@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H2022010394

Tēnā koe Anna,

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to Manatū Hauora (Ministry of Health) on 16 August 2022. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

1. *The number of hours and associated salary support that the Ministry of Health has allocated for Jane I Birdsall and her staff from 01 January to 15 August 2022 to investigate the Wakaminenga Health Council (WHC) and any affiliated practitioners.*

Information pertaining to Jane Birdsall's salary is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

Furthermore, Manatū Hauora has not recorded the number of hours for this work. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) as the information requested is not held by Manatū Hauora and there is no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

2. *Payments by the Ministry of Health to the law firm of Luke Cunningham Clere from 01 January 2022 to 16 August 2022 for the investigation and inquisition related to the Wakaminenga Kaunihera Hauora Health Council (WHC), its agents, and registered practitioners.*

Please note Manatū Hauora has provided information up to 31 August 2022 as the billing period was not complete at 16 August 2022. The total paid to Luke Cunningham Clere relating to Whakaminenga Kaunihera Hauora Health Council between 01 January 2022 and 31 August 2022 is \$53,220 (GST exclusive).

3. *Payments to any and all ancillary personnel to obtain testimony from current or former clients of practitioners affiliated with the WHC.*

Manatū Hauora has not made payments to any personal to obtain a testimony from clients of practitioners affiliated with the Wakaminenga Kaunihera Hauora Health Council. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) as the information requested is not held by Manatū Hauora and there is no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Phil Knipe
Chief Legal Advisor
Government and Executive Services