

Reference: 20230287

29 August 2023

Delia Mason
fyi-request-23004-e3415ca4@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Delia

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 4 June 2023.
You requested:

... all advice you provided to Ministers from 2017-2022 about the proposal for health system reform. Please include:

- all advice about the establishment of the Health and Disability System Review led by Heather Simpson, and the government decisions that were taken following that report*
- all advice about the establishment of the health reforms unit inside DPMC, and*
- all advice to Ministers that led to the establishment of the new health agencies, including any views on whether agencies were ready for the 1 July 2022 'go live' date.*

Please interrupt my request broadly and include any emails, meetings, briefings, memos, cabinet papers etc that relate to this request.

On the 26 June 2023 the Treasury extended your request for 40 working days due to the large quantity of information that needed to be searched through to comprehensively answer your request.

On the 7 July 2023 the Treasury partially transferred part of your request for *all advice about the establishment of the health reforms unit inside DPMC* to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), as Treasury does not hold this information.

On the 30 July 2023, you contacted Treasury inquiring why the request had been partially transferred to DPMC. We contacted you on the 7 August 2023 confirming that it was only a partial transfer and that we still intended to provide you with all Treasury advice concerning the health reforms.

Information being released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

| Item | Date | Document Description | Decision |
|------|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | 4 June 2020 | Treasury Report T2020/1710: Health and Disability Review | Release in part |
| 2. | 5 March 2021 | Treasury Report T2021/419: Health and Disability System Reform - Briefing for Ministerial Oversight Group, 9 March 2021 | Release in part |
| 3. | 13 August 2021 | Joint Report T2021/2054: Health Reform: Appropriations, Budget Responsibilities and Funding Design Principles | Release in part |
| 4. | 16 September 2021 | Treasury Report T2021/2292: Disability System Transformation Cabinet Paper - Treasury Advice | Release in part |
| 5. | 8 October 2021 | Treasury Report T2021/1992: Vote Health - Budget 2022 Transition Package | Release in part |

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting Ministers, members of government organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment,
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions,
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information,
- section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without prejudice or disadvantage, and,
- section 9(2)(k) – to prevent the disclosure of information for improper gain or improper advantage.

Some information has been redacted because it is not covered by the scope of your request.

Direct dial phone numbers of officials have been redacted under section 9(2)(k) in order to reduce the possibility of staff being exposed to phishing, social engineering and other scams. This is because information released under the OIA may end up in the public domain, for example, on websites including Treasury's website.

Please note that regarding Item 1, *Treasury Report T2020/1710: Health and Disability Review* that the \$30 million over two years figure on pages 2 and 8, is not what was eventually funded. The eventual funding amounted to \$5 million in the first year (2021/22), with the second year considered as part of Budget 2021 [Paragraph 35

refers [Cabinet papers relating to The Health and Disability System Review - March 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(futureofhealth.govt.nz\)](#)

Regarding Item 2, *Treasury Report T2021/419: Health and Disability System Reform - Briefing for Ministerial Oversight Group, 9 March 2021* - more detail surrounding paragraph 22 can be found here, <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/publications/proactive-release-health-and-disability-system-reform-briefings>

Additionally, paragraph 40 notes that the Transition Unit was seeking \$126 million as an annual operating allowance. This is not what was funded. At Cabinet 2021, \$36.707 million was provided to fund the Transition Unit within DPMC, for the 2020/21 financial year until 2022/23 financial year. See [Cabinet Minute CAB-21-MIN-0116.24: 2021 Budget Package: Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet - 16 April 2021 - Budget 2021 Information Release \(treasury.govt.nz\)](#) for more information.

Post Budget 2021, the functions of the Transition Unit were transferred to the Interim Health entities. *DPMC Health Reform: Transfer of Functions from Ministry of Health to New Entities* refers [see pages 6-17] ([Briefing DPMC-2021/2022-1221 - Health Reform: Transfer of Functions from Ministry of Health to New Entities - August 2022 - Proactive Release: Health and Disability System Reform Briefings](#)).

Regarding Item 5, *Treasury Report T2021/1992: Vote Health - Budget 2022 Transition Package*, the table at paragraph 15 shows operating costs that evolved over time. Please see paragraph 16 where it is noted that these numbers are expected to change.

Information publicly available

The following information is also covered by your request and is publicly available on the Treasury, DPMC and Future of Health websites:

| Item | Date | Document Description | Website Address |
|------|------------------|--|---|
| 6. | 8 June 2020 | Paper: Response to the Health and Disability System Review / Hauora Manaaki Ki Aotearoa Whānui CAB-20-MIN-0269 | Cabinet papers relating to The Health and Disability System Review - March 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dPMC.govt.nz) |
| 7. | 1 December 2020 | Paper: Health and Disability System Review Response - update CAB-20-MIN-0519 | Cabinet Decision CAB-20-SUB-0519: Health and Disability System Review Response - update (December 2020) (dPMC.govt.nz) |
| 8. | 11 December 2020 | Treasury Report: T2021/3595: Budget 2021 – Briefing for Vote Health Bilateral | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-08/b21-t2020-3595-4382421.pdf |
| 9. | 14 December 2020 | Paper: The Health and Disability System Review: Update CAB-20-SUB-0519 | Cabinet Decision CAB-20-SUB-0519: Health and Disability System Review Response - update (December 2020) - Cabinet Material Information Release (futureofhealth.govt.nz) |

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| 10. | 14 December 2020 | Minute: The Health and Disability System Review: Update CAB-20-MIN-0519 | Cabinet Decision CAB-20-SUB-0519: Health and Disability System Review Response - update (December 2020) - Cabinet Material Information Release (futureofhealth.govt.nz) |
| 11. | 16 February 2021 | Budget Ministers 1 Budget 2021: Strategic outlook and choices | Budget Ministers 1 – Budget 2021: Strategic outlook and choices - 16 February 2021 - Budget 2021 Information Release (treasury.govt.nz) |
| 12. | 4 March 2021 | Treasury Report T2021/316: Fiscal Strategy for Budget 2021 | Treasury Report T2021/316: Fiscal Strategy for Budget 2021 - 4 March 2021 - Budget 2021 Information Release |
| 13. | 5 March 2021 | Treasury Report T2023/419- Health and Disability System Reform - Briefing for Ministerial Oversight Group, 9 March 2021 | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-04/oia-20210340.pdf |
| 14. | 5 March 2021 | Treasury Report T2021/359: Draft package advice for Budget 2021 | Treasury Report T2021/359: Draft package advice for Budget 2021 - 5 March 2021 - Budget 2021 Information Release |
| 15. | 11 March 2021 | Treasury Report T2021/383: Briefing for Vote Health Budget 2021 Bilateral Meeting - 15 March | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-08/b21-t2021-383-4421093.pdf |
| 16. | 15 March 2021 | Aide Memoire T2021/651: Budget 2021 – further information on Health and Disability Reform Initiatives | Aide Memoire T2021/651: Budget 2021 – further information on Health and Disability Reform Initiatives - 15 March 2021 - Budget 2021 Information Release (treasury.govt.nz) |
| 17. | 15 March 2021 | Aide Memoire T2021/651: Budget 2021 - Health reform initiatives | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-08/b21-t2021-651-4430078.pdf |
| 18. | 16 March 2021 | Budget Ministers 2 Emerging Budget 2021 Package | Budget Ministers 2 – Emerging Budget 2021 Package - 16 March 2021 - Budget 2021 Information Release (treasury.govt.nz) |
| 19. | 18 March 2021 | Paper: Health and Disability System Review - Proposals for Reform SWC-21-SUB-0092 refers | Cabinet Decision CAB-21-SUB-0092: Health and Disability System Review - proposals for reform (March 2021) (dpmc.govt.nz) |

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| 20. | 19 March 2021 | Treasury Report T2021/653: Budget 2021: revised package for Budget Ministers 3 - 19 March 2021 - Budget 2021 Information Release | Treasury Report T2021/653: Budget 2021: revised package for Budget Ministers 3 - 19 March 2021 - Budget 2021 Information Release |
| 21. | 29 March 2021 | Minute: Health and Disability System Review - Proposals for Reform CAB-21-MIN-0092 refers | Cabinet Decision CAB-21-SUB-0092: Health and Disability System Review - proposals for reform (March 2021) (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 22. | 29 March 2022 | Budget Ministers 3 Budget 2021: Final Package | Budget Ministers 3 – Budget 2021: Final Package - 29 March 2021 - Budget 2021 Information Release (treasury.govt.nz) |
| 23. | 9 April 2021 | Cabinet Paper: CAB-21-SUB-0116: Budget 2021 Package | Cabinet Paper CAB-21-SUB-0116: Budget 2021 Package - 9 April 2021 - Budget 2021 Information Release (treasury.govt.nz) |
| 24. | 2 June 2021 | Paper: Health and Disability System Reform: Implementation and Transitional Arrangements SWC-21-SUB-0080 | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 25. | 2 June 2021 | Minute: Health and Disability System Reform: Implementation and Transitional Arrangements SWC-21-MIN-0080 | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 26. | 8 June 2021 | Minute: Health and Disability System Reform: Implementation and Transitional Arrangements CAB-21-MIN-0206 | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 27. | 7 July 2021 | Paper: Health and Disability System Reform: Legislative Proposals SWC-21-SUB-0107 | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 28. | 7 July 2021 | Minute: Health and Disability System Reform: Legislative Proposals SWC-21-MIN-0107 | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 29. | 12 July 2021 | Minute: Health and Disability System Reform: Legislative Proposals CAB- | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - |

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| | | 21-MIN-0274 | November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 30. | 20 July 2021 | Joint Report T2021/1579: Joint Report: Health Reform - A Multi-Year Approach to Health Funding – 30 July 201 | Joint Report T2021/1579: Joint Report: Health Reform - A Multi-Year Approach to Health Funding - 30 July 2021 - Budget 2022 Information Release (treasury.govt.nz) |
| 31. | 30 July 2021 | Joint Report T2021/1579: Health Reform - A Multi-year Approach to Health Funding | Joint Report T2021/1579: Joint Report: Health Reform - A Multi-Year Approach to Health Funding - 30 July 2021 - Budget 2022 Information Release (treasury.govt.nz) |
| 32. | 20 September 2021 | Paper: Health and Disability System Review: Further Policy Decisions for the Health Reform Bill CAB-21-SUB-0378 | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 33. | 20 September 2021 | Minute: Health and Disability System Review: Further Policy Decisions for the Health Reform Bill CAB-21-MIN-0378 | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 34. | 14 October 2021 | Paper: Health and Disability System Reform - national budget and funding settings SWC-21-SUB-0157: | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-09/b22-swc-21-min-0157-4661895.pdf |
| 35. | 26 October 2021 | Minute: Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee: Period Ended 22 October 2021 | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-09/b22-cab-21-min-0430-4661880.pdf |
| 36. | 19 October 2021 | Paper: Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill: Approval for Introduction (CPC-21-SUB-0024) | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 37. | 19 October 2021 | Minute: Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill: Approval for Introduction (CPC-21-SUB-0024) | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 38. | 19 October 2021 | Minute: Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill: Approval for Introduction for release (CAB-21-MIN-0417) | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |

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| 39. | 19 October 2021 | Minute: Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Bill: Approval for Introduction for release (CAB-21-MIN-0417) | Health and Disability Reform papers informing legislation content - November 2021 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 40. | 20 October 2021 | Minute: Health and Disability System Reform: National Budget and Funding Settings. SWC-21-MIN-0157 | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-09/b22-swc-21-min-0157-4661895.pdf |
| 41. | 26 October 2021 | Minute: Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee: Period Ended 22 October 2021 (CAB-21-MIN-0430 refers) | Proactive Release: Health and Disability System Reform National Budget and Funding Settings - August 2022 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (dpmc.govt.nz) |
| 42. | 9 November 2021 | Budget Ministers 2 Fiscal Strategy | Budget Ministers' Materials: Budget Ministers 2 Slides - 9 November 2021 - Budget 2022 Information Release (treasury.govt.nz) |
| 43. | 20 January 2022 | Treasury Report: Briefing: T2022/47: Communicating Planning Parameters to the Health System | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-09/b22-t2022-47-4609102.pdf |
| 44. | 10 February 2022 | Treasury Report: T2022/47: Budget 2022 Health Bilateral: Emerging Health Transitional Package | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-09/b22-t2022-47-4609102.pdf |
| 45. | 11 February 2022 | Treasury Report: T2022/6: Budget 2022 - Options for Draft Package | Treasury Report T2022/6: Budget 2022 - Options for Draft Package - 11 February 2022 - Budget 2022 Information Release |
| 46. | 1 March 2022 | Treasury Report: T2022/ 410: Follow up advice on Budget 2022 Vote Health new investment package | Treasury Report T2022/410: Follow up advice on Budget 2022 Vote Health new investment package - 1 March 2022 - Budget 2022 Information Release |
| 47. | 4 March 2022 | Treasury Report: T2022/435: Draft Budget Ministers 4 Material | Treasury Report T2022/435: Draft Budget Ministers 4 material - 4 March 2022 - Budget 2022 Information Release |
| 48. | 8 March 2022 | Treasury Report: T2022/355: Making a safe move to multi-year funding for Vote Health | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-09/b22-t2022-355-4619611.pdf |
| 49. | 1 April 2022 | Budget Ministers 6 Final Budget 2022 | Budget Ministers' Materials: Budget |

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| | | Package | 2022 - Budget Ministers 6 Slides Final - 1 April 2022 - Budget 2022 Information Release (treasury.govt.nz) |
| 50. | 22 October 2022 | Letter: Budget 2022 Invitation Letter - Little - Health | https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-09/b22-inv-health-4535950.pdf |

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the OIA:

- the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Some relevant information may have been removed from documents listed in the above table and should continue to be withheld under the OIA, on the grounds described in the documents.

Information to be refused

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to collate your request for emails regarding the health system reform, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA - that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. The nature of the reforms involved and the duration over many years means there is a significant volume of emails that are in scope of your request.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to your request would help, as required by section 18A of the OIA. However, the number of documents already publicly available and the additional ones that have been released under this OIA mean that there is a comprehensive picture of the decision-making process for the reforms.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Jess Hewat
Manager, Health and ACC