

17 January 2025

David Adamson
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Tēnā koe David

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00073494

Thank you for your email on 28 November 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Can you provide any information/documents that assess, discuss, or confirm projects in the Data & Digital space that may be impacted by the proposed restructure. Can you also highlight any (potentially) affected projects that relate to improving hospital wait times.

Can you also provide any communications to the Minister of Health specifically about the impact on projects from this restructure (for Data & Digital).

Response

For the sake of clarity, I will address each question in turn.

Can you provide any information/documents that assess, discuss, or confirm projects in the Data & Digital space that may be impacted by the proposed restructure.

The consultation on proposals for change in the Digital Services area as part of the Health New Zealand reset is still underway, having been extended to the end of January 2025. As such, no decisions have been taken.

Health NZ has proactively released documents (including financial reports, briefings, letters and aide mémoires) which provide additional transparency around our financial performance, which was a factor in the reset we are undertaking. These documents are publicly available on our website. Please see: [Health NZ Financial Reporting from FY 2023/24 – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)

Health NZ is unable to provide any further documentation associated with the current reset other than previously proactively released documents as decisions relating to Digital Services are still being determined. This information is therefore withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act as it is under active consideration, and its release would damage the public interest.

Once decisions have been taken, we will consider whether or not we can proactively publish the information and publish them in the way we have with the Financial Reporting information referenced above.

Can you also highlight any (potentially) affected projects that relate to improving hospital wait times.

It is not clear what you are referring to by “potentially affected projects”. There is information on Health NZ’s website about the health targets, [Health Targets Implementation Plans – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#) which we believe best matches your interest in performance improvement in hospital wait times. Several targets relate to wait times, such as those for elective treatment and shorter stays in emergency departments.

However, we can advise there are no current projects that specifically relate to improving wait times. Wait times are influenced by many factors, including the digital systems used by clinicians. All Digital Services projects and programmes are prioritised on a range of factors, which includes the benefits they provide.

Can you also provide any communications to the Minister of Health specifically about the impact on projects from this restructure (for Data & Digital).

We have interpreted your response as being communications about impact sent to the Minister from Health New Zealand. This is requiring a search over the months since the announcement of the Governance Reset to Health New Zealand in July 2024.

We continue to work on this and will deliver what we find as soon as we can. We apologise for the delay with this part of our response.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Danielle Coe
Manager (OIA) Government Services
Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora