

12 November 2015

R Smyther
fyi-request-3243-095fee75@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr/ Ms R Smyther

Response to your request for official information ref: H201504844

Thank you for your request of 14 Oct 2015 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

"I request information on all contractors and/or consultants that have worked in the Mental Health Service Improvement Group (Sector Capability Implementation) at any time or period or part thereof between 1 July 2014 through to 14 October 2015. I request the names of these contractors, the total number of hours they have worked by the name of the contractor, and the hourly rate paid by each contractor. I would like this information organised into a spreadsheet with the names of the contractors and the top of each column, and with the rows providing the total number of hours, total number of months, and the hourly rate in dollars paid according to each contractor. I would also like a row in the table indicating which team each contractor worked within the Mental Health Service Improvement Group during this time period. I also request an explanation for the reason these individual contractors were paid by the Ministry of Health to work in the Mental Health Service Improvement Group during this time period. This explanation should be provided in the spreadsheet for each individual contractor".

The information relating to this request is enclosed below.

Table 1: Contractors who have worked for Mental Health Service Improvement (MHSI) Group from 1 Jul 2014 to 14 Oct 2015.

Name of contractors	Total number of hours worked	Total number of months contracted within period*	Which team within MHSI	Reason(s) for contracts
Simon Harding	1356 hours	10 months, 13 days	Mental Health and Addictions	A number of key objectives and deliverables for addiction treatment services.
Maria Cotter	1005.5 hours	10 months, 19 days	Mental Health Programmes	Supporting the implementation of the New Zealand Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2013-2016 and contributing to other work programmes in the team as needed.

John Markland	1954.28 hours	15 months, 14 days	Gambling Harm Minimisation	1) Supporting the development of Preventing and Minimising Gambling Harm Strategy for the 2016/17 to 2018/19 period. 2) Provide support to the team for the judicial review of the July 2013 RFP for Regional and National Services to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm and contributing to other work programmes in the team as needed.
Sue Garrett	206.75 hours	3 months, 28 days	Office of the Director of Mental Health & MHSI	To gather and report on data about forensic mental health service use.
Kim Albrecht	89.5 hours	1 month, 1 day	Mental Health and Addictions	Project liaison for the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) performance review of mental health services and contributing to other work programmes in the team as needed.

*contract period includes Public Holidays, unpaid leave/ holidays taken.

In answering your request, I have identified contractors and consultants in the manner outlined in Appendix 1. I note that there have been no consultants hired during the period 1 Jul 2014 to 14 Oct 2015.

Please note that the hourly rates for each of the contractors have been withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, as the making available of the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of those contractors. I consider that withholding this information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make this information available.

Pursuant to section 28 of the Act, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman about my decision to withhold the above information. Information about making a complaint is available on the website of the Office of the Ombudsman (www.ombudsman.parliament.nz). You can also contact the Ombudsman on freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Cathy O'Malley
Deputy Director-General
Sector Capability and Implementation

Appendix 1: Definition of Contractor and Consultants

Contractor (AoG)

A GST-registered person working for the Ministry of Health engaged through a contract with an All of Government (AoG) Recruitment Agency (so paid by the Recruitment Agency). The person is engaged to complete a particular task or project that might otherwise be carried out by a staff member except that the time or skills are not available from the existing resources.

Contractor (Other)

A GST-registered person working for the Ministry of Health through a contract not via an All of Government (AoG) Recruitment Agency (so paid directly by the Ministry on receipt of invoice). The person is engaged to complete a particular task or project that might otherwise be carried out by a staff member except that the time or skills are not available from the existing resources.

Consultants

A professional entity or self-employed individual engaged to provide discrete outcomes or services, usually some form of specialised advice.

*The key difference between a consultant and a contractor is that a consultant is engaged to provide specialist, expert or strategic advice whereas a contractor is a resource engaged to carry out tasks and duties that might otherwise be carried out by a staff member