



**Southern District Health Board**  
Dunedin Hospital  
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Chief Executive Officer  
Phone 03-476 9448 Fax 03-476 9450

2 May 2016

Ms Natalie Wilson

Email: [fyi-request-3756-91a138a9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-3756-91a138a9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Wilson

**Re: Official Information Act Request**

I refer to your Official Information Act request received by email on 23 March 2016 in which you specifically requested the following:

**I would like to know how much was the hourly rate paid by the Southern District Health Board to Alma Consulting?**

We are unable to provide this information as it is commercially sensitive for both parties. We are therefore withholding this information under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act in order to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

**Was the correct MBIE tender process used in the choice of Alma Consulting?**

The appointment of Alma Consulting to conduct a DHB wide service review was based on Alma's track record following earlier discrete pieces of work undertaken at Southern DHB. This earlier work covered a review of the Clinical Administration process and separately work to support the 2015/16 budgeting process. Given our earlier experience, Alma's references from work undertaken at other DHBs and the urgency of the work I was asked to seek approval from the Board for a departure from the normal procurement process. This departure was granted and Alma were appointed to carry out this work.

As we move forward in implementing the plan we have targeted to develop organisational capability and capacity, especially in the areas of Finance and Business Intelligence, the Southern DHB will use less external resource.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Office can be contacted on 0800 802 602 or on-line at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>.

Yours sincerely

**Carole Heatly**  
Chief Executive Officer