

17 July 2017



Gael Wright

Email: fyi-request-6100-b9693965@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Gael

Official Information Act (OIA) Request

The Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) received your email request on 3 July 2017 for the following information:

All minutes of all Grant Assessment Committee meetings for the last 5 years. There should be no redaction of identities as these are minutes of meetings of an official public body.

All scores of all grant applications for the last 5 years. This should include scores at each stage of the assessment (including, panel scoring at each stage (by individual if possible) and reviewer scores) and final outcome. While it is appreciated that reviewer identities might want to be protected it would be preferable if all applicant information and committee member information is provided (for the purposes of statistical analysis). Certainly panel-list identities should be provided as they are acting as public servants.

In particular, we refer the Council to Section 6 of the Official Information Act '...information shall be made available unless there is good reason for withholding it' and we see no "good reason" for any of this information to be withheld from public scrutiny.

In order to meet your request, the HRC has estimated that there are more than 80,000 data points for more than 4000 applications, 170 meetings, 4000 peer review reports, more than 70000 application scores. Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to collate the information you have requested, it is likely that the HRC will refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. In our view, charging under section 15 or extending the timeframe under section 15A would not enable your request to be granted.

The HRC invites you to consider significantly narrowing the scope of your request in a manner that may enable us to provide you with an acceptable response.

We would also appreciate it if you would provide us with your contact information, so that we can discuss the scope directly with you as this may assist in a timely response. You can submit this to the HRC email address: info@hrc.govt.nz.

Please let us know before Monday 24 July 2017 if you are prepared to amend your request and, if so, how. Please note, any amendment of a request is considered to be a new request for the purpose of calculating the maximum statutory timeframe for response—see section 15(1AA) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K McPherson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Professor Kathryn McPherson
Chief Executive

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