

2 October 2017



Gael Wright

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

Dear Gael

Official Information Act Request

The Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) received your email dated 10 September 2017. Please see our response below:

Thank you for the recent reply. The charging requested is however beyond the financial means of this private citizen. The HRC still has not articulated how S9(2) apply in this situation which I presume accounts for most of the work. I also note that if the HRC kept a best practise modern database system then the requested information would take less than an hour with a well constructed database query.....

As explained in our letter dated 26 July 2017, providing the requested information would undermine our ability to engage peer reviewers who are so critical to upholding the standards of peer review, as making their scores available *would likely prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied (s9(2)(ba(i)))*. In our view this would also limit and undermine *the effective conduct of free and frank expression of opinions (s9(2)(g)(i))* which is such an integral aspect of scientific assessment.

As such, I would like to simplify and change my initial request.

Here instead I simply ask for the identities of panel members adjudicating on panel/programme grants over the last 5 years.

If you could also provide the information on those investigators who received programme/project grants for the last 5 years. I note that only information on the principal investigator is available online. However, no information on (FTE-costed) co-investigators is available to the general public.

In respond to the above two requests, we provide the attached files:

- 2013 - 2017 panel members.xlsx – the names of the panel members of the assessing committees for programmes and projects for the last five years.

- 2013 – 2017 project investigators.xlsx – the named investigators for the funded projects for the last five years.
- 2013 – 2017 programme investigators.xlsx – the named investigators for the funded programmes for the last five years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn McPherson', with a large, stylized initial 'K' and 'M'.

Professor Kathryn McPherson
Chief Executive

Encl.