



Auckland DHB  
Chief Executive's Office  
Level 1  
Building 37  
Auckland City Hospital  
PO Box 92189  
Victoria Street West  
Auckland 1142  
Ph: (09) 630-9943 ext: 22342  
Email: [ailsac@adhb.govt.nz](mailto:ailsac@adhb.govt.nz)

22 December 2017

Dr Caleb Armstrong

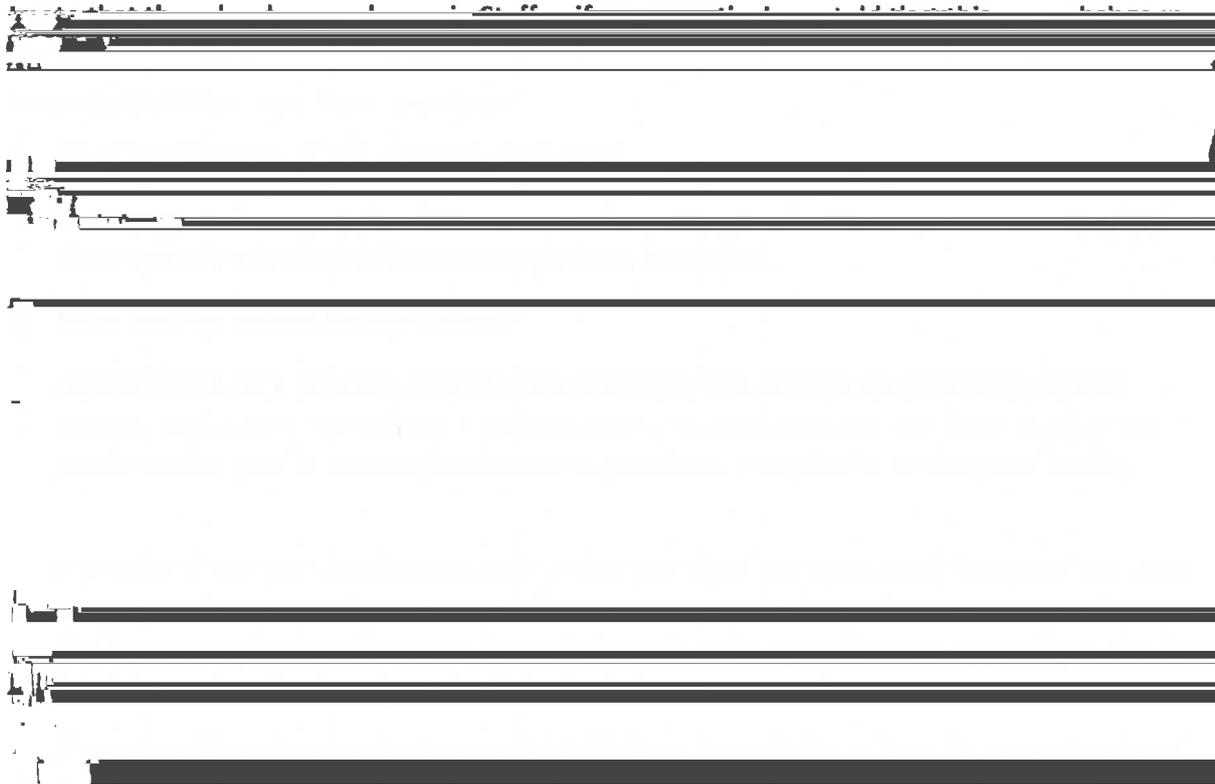
By email to: [fyi-request-7014-b007ecbd@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7014-b007ecbd@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Dr Armstrong

Re **Official Information Request – Cost of change in uniform**

I refer to your official information request dated [click here to select date](#) for information about the change in staff uniform at Auckland DHB.

The information you have requested is enclosed. We have provided the information under each of your questions below.



The nursing and midwifery uniform hadn't been changed for 10 years, although we did replace uniforms as required to accommodate changes in sizing and wear and tear. The previous nursing and midwifery uniform was a loose-fitting scrub-style top and pants of matching fabric. This nurse and midwifery uniform was often ill-fitting, faded over time and are very similar in style and colour to theatre attire. This similarity in scrub-style and look made it difficult for our patients and their families to differentiate, and easily recognise, the nurses and midwives that provide their care.

We require nursing and midwifery uniforms for over 3,600 nurses and midwives and our previous supply and cost arrangements could we believe, be improved.

The new uniforms are being purchased through a national contract which will better control costs. The replacement uniforms are made of more durable fabric which is hard wearing and will not fade. We expect uniforms to be in use longer than our existing uniforms. We have also introduced a refurbishment service enabling the reuse of uniform garments returned by staff. If someone leaves Auckland DHB, their uniform will be assessed and if it is good condition it will be professionally cleaned and pressed and put back into circulation.

**3. Does Auckland District Health Board have a budget surplus, or was the cost covered by further deficit spending?**

For 2017/18, Auckland DHB has budgeted a breakeven position. The cost of the uniforms was included in the 2016/17 Capital Expenditure budget and has no impact on the 2017/18 operational budget. The DHB achieved a surplus of \$3.1M in 2016/17.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours faithfully

PP 

Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive