

2 July 2019

Aarti Singh

By email to: [fyi-request-10433-00f99521@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10433-00f99521@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Aarti

**Re Official Information Request – Mental health doctor vacancies**

I refer to your official information request dated 1 June 2019 requesting the following information:

**I would like to request:**

- 1. What is the number and percentage (the total being full number of funded positions) of your vacancies in mental health doctors (registrars and consultants) in 2018 and 2019?***

| <b>Unfilled FTE* of Doctors in the Mental Health &amp; Addictions Directorate of Auckland DHB</b> | <b>2018<br/>(31 May)</b> | <b>2019<br/>(31 May)</b> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Number (FTE)</b>   | <b>15.16</b>             | <b>13.66</b>             |
| <b>Percentage (of budgeted FTE)</b>   | <b>14.8%</b>             | <b>13.5%</b>             |

The Unfilled FTE represents vacancy, as it the difference between FTE budgeted (funded positions) and filled FTE (sum of employees' contracted hours).

FTE = Full-Time Equivalent positions.

- 2. Is there a strategic plan in place to increase the numbers of mental health doctors, given the increased demands for mental health services, and the recent government budget announcements?***

In line with He Ara Oranga: Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction, we are working through new models of care that allow more access and choice. We are developing a medical workforce action plan to enhance the capability of our workforce, and

increase our responsiveness to the increased need in the population. There is no strategic plan to increase the number of doctors.

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.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive