

25 March 2014

Mr Anthony Jordan
fyi-request-1435-f6df687c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Jordan

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request of 12 February 2014, asking for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I can advise that in accordance with the Act, ACC has made a decision in respect of each piece of information you have requested in your letter. There is however, one matter in relation to which ACC is consulting Dr Collier before that information will be released to you. I anticipate that the Corporation will be in a position to provide its response to that point, by Friday 28 March 2014. Set out below is ACC's response to the remainder of the information requested in your letter of 12 February 2014.

The date on which Dr Collier closed his private practice?

In making your request, you have cited a letter which was sent to you on 18 November 2010 by Advisor, Sandra Campbell. That letter disclosed that Dr Collier had closed his private practice two years earlier and that ACC was at that time, his sole source of income.

That point requires clarification. ACC's understanding is that Dr Collier did not close his private practice in 2008. Instead, he continued in his capacity as a registered psychiatrist engaged in private practice. However, while remaining in private practice, Dr Collier was only providing services to ACC and not the general public. Where Ms Cambell's letter refers to Dr Collier having "closed" his private practice, this was merely intended to convey ACC's understanding that Dr Collier's private practice was effectively closed to the general public. ACC apologises for any confusion this might have caused.

I can advise that, beyond what has already been disclosed to you in Ms Campbell's letter, ACC does not hold any information in respect of the date Dr Collier stopped providing services to the general public. Therefore your request is declined pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that the information you seek does not exist.

Does ACC know whether Dr Collier's situation has changed?

You have asked whether the "closure" of Dr Collier's practice remains the status quo, and if not, as to whether ACC has any knowledge of when he "reopened" his private practice. As explained above, Dr Collier remains in private practice. For the sake of completeness I note that ACC has no knowledge of whether Dr Collier has provided services to the public in the time since he initially began providing services solely to ACC in 2008. On that basis, your request is declined pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act as the information you seek does not exist.

Were the criteria applicable prior to 2008, the same or similar, to those set out at point 4 of the 2008 Service Schedule for Clinical Psychiatric Services?

I note that by letter dated 16 May 2012 ACC has previously provided to you, copies of the Service Schedules for Clinical Psychiatric Services for the years 2004, 2006, and 2007 (you were also advised at that time that ACC has been unable to locate Service Schedules for 2002 and 2003). The documents that ACC was able to locate were provided to you on the basis that they were the contracts held by Dr Collier since 2004. I note that those Service Schedules set out the same criteria as point 4 of the 2008 Clinical Psychiatric Service Schedule.

Has Dr Collier been subject to subsequent Service Schedules for Clinical Psychiatric Services?

You have asked whether Dr Collier has been subject to the Service Schedules for Clinical Psychiatric Services for the years 2008 to 2013, inclusive. I note that Ms White's letter of 16 May 2012 also enclosed copies of the Service Schedules for Clinical Psychiatric Services for the years 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 on the basis that those were the contracts that were held by Dr Collier in those years.

I can confirm that Dr Collier has also been contracted to ACC on the basis of the generic Service Schedules for Clinical Psychiatric Services for the years 2012 and 2013. A copy of the current generic service schedule is attached for your information.

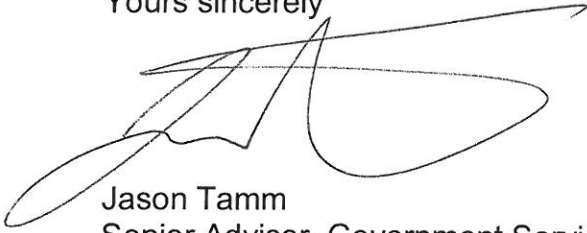
Queries or Complaints

Please contact me at jason.tamm@acc.co.nz if you have any queries about this letter.

If you're unhappy with ACC's response, you may make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. You can call them on 0800 802 602 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, or write to:

The Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10 152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jason Tamm', written over a horizontal line.

Jason Tamm
Senior Advisor, Government Services
Telephone: 04 8167267