

21 May 2024

Erika Whittome

[fyi-request-24095-4d790981@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24095-4d790981@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Erika

### Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00046048

This response addresses your request for information sent to the Ministry of Health on 1 May 2024, which was transferred to Health New Zealand for response under section 14(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act (the Act).

#### Your request:

*Regarding questions 1, I have not received the information on the budget. I would like to provide some clarification about this information request.*

*My request for information in my OIA was :*

*What budget was allocated for Covid 19 health and safety activities at DHBs for the 2021/2022 financial year? For example Covid advisors, Covid risk specialist roles, website info pages etc The ombudsman office shared these links:*

*The Ministry of Health's Annual report for the year ending 30 June 2022 -  
<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/manatu-hauora-annual-report-ye>*

*And for Auckland DHB*

*The financial reports in the links do not distinguish between public health response (for example PPE and vax spending) and workplace safety.*

*Worksafe have already distinguished between "public health issues" and "workplace risks and hazards" here in another OIA*

*The MoH has spent money on workplace health and safety which is evident in this OIA response mentioning "workplace" and "worker" efforts pages 60 & 69 with MoH staff engaging at private companies:*

*Fiona Michel and Rachal Mackay appear to have roles for programs in workplace vaccination (not public health matters in DHBs for example). They are programs of work at private corporations.*

*Please leave this request open and if required transfer to the MoH. I am not satisfied with the information because it does not cover the health and safety activities which would have taken place in workplaces (as opposed to public health response at DHBs, hospitals, quarantines etc).*

*This request may be for the MoH and I am not clear on where the lines of demarcation lie for DHBs and MoH budgets.*

## Response

This request appears to ask for information you already requested from Health New Zealand under the Act on 11 September 2023 (reference HNZ00029810). We responded to that request on 3 November 2023 issuing a decision to refuse the information under section 18(f) of the Act, because it could not be made available without substantial collation or research. You referred this decision to the Ombudsman, who found that Health New Zealand acted reasonably in refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act. Accordingly, the Ombudsman closed this matter.

Health New Zealand remains willing to engage with you on future requests for information not captured by your request of 11 September 2023. Any request for the same information will again be refused under the same ground.

## How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [hnzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz](mailto:hnzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



### Danielle Coe

Manager (OIA) Government Services  
Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora