

# Hon Dr Shane Reti

Minister of Health  
Minister for Pacific Peoples



10 MAY 2024

Sam Malik

By email: fyi-request-26145-04e86569@requests.fyi.org.nz  
Ref: SROIA-072

Dear Sam

## Response to your request for official information: SROIA-072

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 19 March 2023. You requested:

*“My question is when it was said that the damages done by Ms Ardern’s govt re creation of Health NZ instead of getting more doctors in, can’t be reversed but paused at where it is at the moment then why a new contract was given to an IT company in Wellington to migrate the Health NZ employees onto a new system for no apparent reason which would benefit NZers health.*

*Also, as per a media report, the Te Aka Whai Ora is being disestablished but the teams would still exist but under the Health NZ umbrella and some hiring is still going ahead. Can you explain how come the savings it would make, if any?*

Unfortunately, the Act is a tool for requesting specified information which is held by an agency or Minister subject to the Act. It is not able to be used to engage in dialogue about a particular course of action or ask for an opinion.

Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by this Office and there are no grounds for believing it is held by another agency subject to the Act.

The Government is well aware there will remain a need to improve Māori health outcomes, which are persistently poorer than those of the general population. Partnership with Māori will remain important, and it is expected that health agencies will engage and work with Māori in exercising functions nationally and locally. The Minister intends to shift decision-making closer to communities to allow the people who know their whānau and community best to guide service design and commissioning.

Ahead of the disestablishment, Māori Health Authority staff, assets and liabilities have transferred to either Health New Zealand or the Ministry of Health. This enables the health system to maintain the expertise needed to improve health outcomes for all New Zealanders including Māori. The transfers took effect on 31 March to the Ministry of Health and 1 April for Health New Zealand.

As of March 2024 the Māori Health Authority had 280 staff. 10 staff transferred to the Ministry of Health. Agencies are still working through their consultation process for change and more information will be made available once decisions are made.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Franklin', written over a large, light-colored circular scribble.

Jonathan Franklin

**Senior Ministerial Advisor**