



19 September 2024

Tyler Smith

Email: fyi-request-28086-8e713cb5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: SROIA-238

Tēnā koe Tyler,

Response to your request for information, SROIA-238

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 18 August 2024 to the Minister of Health, Hon Dr Shane Reti. You requested:

- “1. How much did the air ambulance/rescue helicopter budget increase in Budget 2024?*
- 2. When will Rotorua regain an air ambulance based out of Rotorua hospital?*
- 3. If there is no date, is there a plan to establish an air ambulance at Rotorua hospital again?*
- 4. If there is no plan, please tell me why Rotorua will not get an air ambulance again?*
- 5. Has the Rotorua MP Todd McClay met with Health Minister Shane Reti to discuss the air ambulance service to Rotorua?*
- 6. Has the Minister requested any advice on establishing an air ambulance in Rotorua? If so please provide this.”*

For clarity, we will respond to each question in turn.

How much did the air ambulance/rescue helicopter budget increase in Budget 2024?

The air ambulance budget increased by \$29 million (from \$128 million in FY23/24 to \$157 million in FY24/25).

*When will Rotorua regain an air ambulance based out of Rotorua hospital?
If there is no date, is there a plan to establish an air ambulance at Rotorua hospital again?
If there is no plan, please tell me why Rotorua will not get an air ambulance again?*

The above parts of your request are more closely connected to the functions of Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora. As such, we have decided to transfer these to Health NZ under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. You can expect a response from Health NZ in due course.

Has the Rotorua MP Todd McClay met with Health Minister Shane Reti to discuss the air ambulance service to Rotorua?

The Minister's diary is proactively released on the Beehive website every month, and provides an overview of meetings. No meetings have been identified in scope of your request.

*Has the Minister requested any advice on establishing an air ambulance in Rotorua?
If so please provide this.*

The Minister of Health has not requested any such advice.

I trust this satisfies your request. 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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Franklin', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Franklin
Senior Ministerial Advisor