

25 November 2024

Rodney Parsons

By email: [fyi-request-28935-365b9d67@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28935-365b9d67@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Rodney

I refer to your information request dated 26 October 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*In approximately 2017, the medical school indicated its intent to develop a rural medical school program. Provide plans related to this as well as an explanation as to why it didn't go ahead.*

*Also provide plans related to a graduate medical school program.*

We note you have made a similar request to the University of Auckland and a related request to the University of Waikato. The University of Otago's response to your request follows.

On 1 August 2024 a report jointly commissioned the University of Otago and the University of Auckland and produced by PwC, was published, here: <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/assets/news-and-opinion/2024/07/web-medical-education-NZ-July-2024-PwC-report.pdf>. Further comment regarding funding of medical school placements, and a link to the report, was published here: <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/news/2024/08/01/auckland-otago-med-schools-could-train-300-more-doctors.html>.

The PwC report was compiled to respond to the Ministry of Health's request for engagement and input on its consideration of the University of Waikato's proposal to establish a third university medical school in New Zealand. The report provides a summary of the University of Otago's and University of Auckland's work, including key insights to support the Ministry of Health's assessment of future options for medical education in New Zealand. PwC helped collate, organise and assess this information for the purpose of supporting the Ministry of Health's process.

The report and commentary above provide a comprehensive summary of proposals regarding development of a rural medical school programme, and graduate medical school programme, within the scope of your request. The report and commentary above also explain that such proposals can only proceed if the government funding cap, which places a limit on the number of students who can attend medical school, is increased.

Accordingly, we decline your request under s18(d) as the information you have requested is publicly available. We do however hope that the information above will be helpful.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Frewen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized capital 'B'.

Bill Frewen  
Manager Policy and Compliance