

18 February 2025

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Tēnā koe Lauren

Your request for official information, reference: HN200078190

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), which was transferred from the office of Hon Matt Doocey on 4 February 2025 to Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora asking for the following:

'Outline what, if any, resourcing has been provided to health and ambulance services to address the mental health transition. A dollar figure will do. If the answer is \$0, please just say so.'

Response

Unfortunately, your request is refused in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional convention protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Health NZ continues to work closely with ambulance providers nationally and locally to ascertain any impact. At this stage, there has not been a significant increase to emergency ambulance volumes following the implementation of Phase One of the Police MH Programme of Change. This takes into account existing work for the ambulance sector prior to the Police MH Programme of Change through emergency ambulance services and patient transfer service work.

Furthermore, Health NZ can advise there is work underway to implement additional training and security resources as part of strengthening Emergency Department (ED) security, particularly in our larger EDs. Over time elements of this work will be rolled out to smaller and rural EDs. There is also a wider health and safety focus on supporting staff with training and guidance to help manage violent and aggressive people. Health NZ is taking opportunities to leverage this activity wherever possible and to ensure support and guidance are available for both urban and rural healthcare facilities.

The ED Security Improvement Programme has budget for FY24/25 and programme delivery is underway and on track. This funding is separate to work being undertaken around Police's change to mental health response, but the Programme is aligned with mental health practice and will improve the skills and confidence of ED clinicians and security teams in mitigating the harms of violence at work. Additionally, this programme also provides budget for one additional permanent security position in each of the EDs of eight large urban hospitals, and funds surge security staff for all hospitals with EDs when required for high-risk periods.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@tewhatauora.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 or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Karla Bergquist

Director, Specialist Mental Health and Addiction
Planning, Funding and Outcomes