

30 June 2026

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Tēnā koe Erika

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00204965

Thank you for your email on 20 June 2026, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

*Dear hnzOIA,
The requested information has not been supplied. I refer to Question 4:
4. What is the total of settlements paid out to date by DHB district across the whole country?*

You have only supplied 2024. What about 2021-2024 please?

*Question 1 & 2
"our staff would have to manually review all individual pleadings across all districts. Health NZ would need to divert personnel from their other core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task...
, your request for costs associated with inhouse human resource or legal input under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held by Health NZ and we have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another entity subject to the OIA."*

So you pay the legal costs about cases for cases from people who don't even work there anymore, but don't have break downs. Is that correct? Is there not a cost center in your Oracle financials system for legal costs?

On the 25 June 2026, we asked you to refine your request and explained the launch of Health NZ and the replacement of 20 independent District Health Boards (DHBs) all with their own systems, structures and functions. The refinement request explained why your request as it stands would require substantial manual collation and research to respond to. To date, we have not heard from you.

Response

As you are aware from our response, reference HNZ00203454, generally, claims about the vaccination order contain claims for both alleged breaches of contract and breaches of statutory law as well. However, the type of breach is not contained in a centralised database.

I will respond to each question in turn.

*What is the total of settlements paid out to date by DHB district across the whole country?
You have only supplied 2024. What about 2021-2024 please?*

As explained in our initial response, reference: HNZ00203454 and subsequent suggested refinement, we are working to centralise the current and future information. Until the centralisation is complete, we are reliant on individual districts and how they maintain their information. Prior to 1 July 2022 each DHB maintained its own systems for reporting information.

This is why to provide you with this information; staff across all districts would have to manually review all individual pleadings. To do this, we would need to divert personnel from their other core duties, and a diversion of these resources would impair our ability to carry out our other core functions. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as it requires substantial collation and research.

I have considered whether fixing a charge for the supply of the information or extending the timeframe for response would enable Health NZ to respond. I do not consider that either option would remove the impact that supplying the information would have on our other operations.

So, you pay the legal costs about cases for cases from people who don't even work there anymore, but don't have breakdowns. Is that correct? Is there not a cost center in your Oracle financials system for legal costs?

For the first part of your question “so, you pay legal costs about cases from people who don't even work there anymore”, this is correct. Employment cases continue past the end of employment and do not end because an employee has left the organisation. Health NZ is required to participate in the process and continue to engage.

Health NZ has a cost centre for all employment law legal costs, however the spend is not reported by the type of legal matter therefore we are unable to differentiate between employment matters related (or not related) to the vaccine mandates or specific types of employment claims (such as disadvantage, dismissal or breach of contract) without a manual review of each matter.

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

pp



Matthew McLay

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