

8 July 2026

Erika Whittome
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Tēnā koe Erika

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00205297

Thank you for your email on 1 July 2026, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

Your response says "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."

My understanding is that there is one Oracle Financials for all the DHBs. It's all in one database, so it's just a matter of extracting and sharing it according to cost code and cost center. Would you kindly supply the requested information on the legal costs 2 July 2022 onwards please?

Response

We have interpreted your request to mean legal costs for vaccine mandated employment matters based on your previous requests for this information, reference HNZ00203454 and HNZ00204965.

Unfortunately, your understanding of the Health NZ Oracle Financial System is incorrect. While all financials are now centralised in one version of Oracle, this has not been backdated. As we have advised in our previous two responses, information prior to the 2024/25 financial year is still held separately by each District.

Your interpretation that all legal costs for vaccine mandate matters are charged to the one cost centre is also incorrect. There is one cost centre in Oracle that all legal costs relating to *all* employment matters (from the 2024/25 financial year onwards) are charged too. To produce the total spend just for employment matters relating to the vaccine mandates, each invoice needs to be checked 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).

Likewise, prior to the 2024/25 financial year, legal costs for all employment matters were charged to cost centers in each district, therefore our staff would have to manually review all individual pleadings across all districts to supply the total legal costs. Health NZ would need to divert personnel from their other core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The 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.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nz.OIA@tewhatuora.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

Manager (OIA), Government Services
Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora