

21 July 2026

John Armstrong

By email: fyi-request-35052-26f0ff45@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe John

Official information request regarding Whittome v Director-General of Health
Our Ref: OIA-2627009

I refer to your official information request dated 13 July 2026 for:

1. Total Legal Costs as of 13 July 2026

The total legal costs incurred by Crown Law in relation to proceedings:

CIV-2024-404-845 – Whittome v Director-General of Health, incl High Court hearing held on the 15th June 2026.

This should include, but not be limited to:

- External counsel fees (if applicable)*
- Internal Crown Law time/costings*
- Disbursements (including expert reports, court filing fees, document management, and preparation of the common bundle)*

2. Breakdown of Costs

A breakdown of the above costs, to the extent held, including:

- Costs attributable to preparation of the common bundle*

We have decided to grant your request for the total legal costs incurred up to 13 July 2026. The information is contained in the table below. In our response to you on 23 April 2026, we said the internal Crown Law time/cost to the Treasury was 53.85 hours (\$11,489.60). This has been corrected below.

Legal costs to 13 July 2026		
<i>Total cost</i>	\$87,405.60 excl. Goods and Services Tax (GST)	
<i>Internal Crown Law time/cost</i>	Ministry of Health	The Treasury New Zealand
	299.73 hours (\$75,835.68)	54.23 hours (\$11,569.92)
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$151.22	
Breakdown of costs		
<i>Costs attributable to preparation of the common bundle</i>	13.95 hours (\$3,504.90)	

<i>Counsel vs solicitor time</i>	Internal Crown Law counsel time is as above. There is no external counsel time.
---	---

Proactive release

Please note that we may publish this response (with your personal details redacted), and any related documents, on Crown Law's website if we decide proactive release of this information is or may be in the public interest. If you have any concerns about this, please let us know within 10 working days of the date of this letter.

Right to complain to the Ombudsman

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact OIA@crownlaw.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Crown Law



Vanessa Howell
Crown Counsel