

23 April 2013

Anthony Jordan

fyi-request-811-dd03085f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Jordan

Official Information Act Request

I refer to your email of 4 April 2013 requesting that ACC reconsider its decision of 24 October 2012, in which it withheld an invoice submitted by Dr Timmings, for commercial reasons.

ACC's decision to decline to provide a copy of Dr Timming's invoice for his assessment of 17 July 2008 remains in place. However, ACC has considered whether or not the final figure inclusive of any costs or disbursements should continue to be withheld. As the figure is a total of the costs and no unique or specific commercially sensitive arrangements are revealed in providing the total figure paid, ACC has decided that it will release the quantum of the total amount paid. ACC can advise the total amount of the invoice dated 17 July 2008 was \$825.

The neurological assessment Dr Timmings completed is a non-contracted service and is not subject to strict contracted criteria. The rate for a non-contracted service can be negotiated depending on the complexity of the assessment.

The 'Purchase Order' you refer to was for a referral and approval for ACC funding of a neurological assessment and would have been an estimated cost. The actual cost of an assessment may not always be known prior to the assessment as the specialist cannot always anticipate how long it would take to consult with the client, review any medical reports/notes sent, and then provide a report to ACC. Therefore, the purchase order figure may be different from that of the actual fee charged.

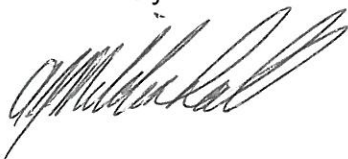
I note you refer to a letter dated 20 July 2012 in which you were advised that "*contracted providers operate on strict payment grounds.*" ACC does not hold any contracts directly with Dr Timmings, but he is a named provider on the contracts ACC hold with Anglesea Consultants and Waikato District Health Board.

Please contact me at anna.mildenhall@acc.co.nz if you have any questions regarding this letter.

If you're not happy with ACC's decision, you may make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. You can call them on 0800 802 602, 9am to 5pm weekdays, or write to:

The Office of the Ombudsman
P O Box 10 152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Anna Mildenhall
Senior Advisor, Government Services