

10 May 2013

Anthony Jordan
fyi-request-814-0263dbeb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Jordan

Official information request

I refer to your request of 9 April 2013, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *In light of your response dated 9 April, does the Accident Compensation Corporation have an Independent Accredited/Contracted registered medical professional by the name Dr John Lewis Collier?*
- *Please disclose the following information where possible*
 - *Travel expenses and related costs for travel from 2003 to date charged to or paid for by the ACC*
 - *Duration Dr John Lewis Collier has been an Independent Assessor/Contracted provider for the ACC*

In ACC's previous response of 9 April 2013, the decision related to your query regarding Dr John Lewis Collier Ltd of 11 Firth Street, Hamilton. ACC has no record of a provider operating under this particular name and address.

ACC does have a registered provider operating under the name of Dr John Collier of 100 Clarence Street, Hamilton who is contracted to provide the following services:

Impairment Assessments – held since 1 April 2002
Clinical Psychiatric Services – held since 1 April 2004

ACC declines to provide the travel expenses and related costs paid directly to Dr Collier to protect his privacy. This decision is made pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act. ACC concludes that the privacy interest of this specific information outweighs any public interest.

However, ACC considers there is a public interest factor regarding payments made to medical providers as it concerns the expenditure of public funds. This can be met by providing general information about ACC payment figures to providers who hold the same contracts as Dr Collier. Currently, ACC has 80 contracted impairment assessors and 80 clinical psychiatric service contract holders.

The table below shows the total travel expenses and related costs by financial year from 2010. ACC is unable to provide earlier figures as contract specific travel codes were only introduced from the 2010/11 financial year. Please note the 2012/13 figures are for a partial year to 24 April 2013, and are based on invoices only received and paid at that date.

| Service contract | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Impairment assessments | \$169,213 | \$293,591 | \$2,384 |
| Clinical Psychiatric Services | \$454,427 | \$416,696 | \$2,194 |

These contracted travel costs also include accommodation and room hire. Travel costs and related expenses are payable to providers when ACC requests an assessor to conduct an assessment or clinic in an outlying area that is not the assessor's usual area of residence or practice.

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

If you're still not happy, 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