

24 April 2019

Helena

E mail: fyi-request-8869-f760fd75@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Helena

Subject: Official Information Act request Re: smokefree contracts

Thank you for your request on 26 March 2019 for further information about smokefree contracts which Lakes DHB logged under the Official Information Act. Please see the following answers to further questions following our earlier responses about smokefree contracts.

- 1. How do you explain the fact that discussions had already begun between the Ministry and Lakes Planning and Funding into new arrangements for the Lakes DHB tobacco control service to take a different approach in the very same month (June 2018) when the service and staff were being disestablished and the new contract was being planned.***

The decision to disestablish the Smokefree service and staff was made during the start of our 2018/19 Budgeting processes which occurred over the last quarter of 2017.

The service was solely contingent on Ministry of Health funding. Lakes DHB was not in a financial position to continue to fund positions, without more definitive certainty from the MoH. There was a history with this particular contract for short-term extensions or rollovers.

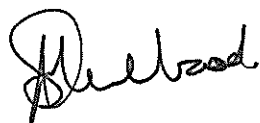
Conversations the Director of Strategy, Planning and Funding says she held with the Ministry at the time (2017), confirmed significant budgetary pressures and significant risk. As staff members were impacted by this, our obligation requires appropriate change processes to be put in place as soon as possible. Smokefree service staff members were notified in late November 2017, that no certainty had been given by the MoH on whether the contract would continue and so plans to commence service exit started in January 2018, with the contract end date being 30 June 2018.

- 2. Why was it advised in the information to staff by Planning and Funding that it was the Ministry's intention to not continue the contract when it is clear that the request was actually made by Karen Evison Director Strategy Planning and funding on 7/6/2018 to the Ministry quote, "we do not wish to have an extension we would like to have a new contract with a negotiated service specification". Same month of service and staff disestablishments. This email from Lakes DHB Director strategy Planning and funding followed the Ministry's earlier email offer on 7/6/18 stating, "this is a courtesy email to inform you that the Ministry intends to extend your DHB tobacco control contract for 12 months".***

The processes to exit the service and support the staff were in their final phases of successfully redeploying affected staff to longer term contracts, by the time the Ministry gave the level of certainty required.

As you point out in your letter, it was at this point that the Director of Strategy, Planning and Funding has stated that she requested a relook at the services being considered.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Saville-Wood', written in a cursive style.

Nick Saville-Wood
Acting Chief Executive

Cc: sectoroias@moh.govt.nz