

9 February 2023

[REDACTED]

By Email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official information request HNZ00005735

I refer to your email dated 27 October 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I am very interested to receive the policy papers, decision papers, information, memoranda, strategy papers and reports provided to, and agendas, minutes, RFI's and decisions (and reasons for decisions) made by, the Te Whatu Ora board since its inception in relation to:

- *the new hospital build in Dunedin*
- *the provision of health services to the Central Otago community*
- *how iwi co-governance is to operate and how it is operating in the South Island*
- *the interim NZ health Plan, in particular the rural chapter*
- *the Board's internal policies, principles, rules and guidelines*

Please note that this includes agendas, minutes, RFI's and decisions (and reasons for decisions) not open to the public.

Also, please provide the timelines for:

- *appointment of permanent employees to the senior South Island management roles of Te Whatu Ora*
- *providing the overall strategy for providing health services to the South Island."*

On 11 January 2023, your also emailed requesting the following information under the Act:

"Please provide the policy papers, decision papers, information, memoranda, strategy papers and reports provided to, and agendas, minutes, RFI's and decisions (and reasons for decisions) made by the Te Whatu Ora Board from 1 November to date in relation to:

- *the new hospital build in Dunedin and the operations of the hospital once built"*

The documents in scope to this request are itemised in **Appendix 1** which outlines the decision on release.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as, if released, it would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Furthermore, some information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

A small amount of information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

You will note that some information has been deemed to be 'out of scope' to your request.

Two documents have been withheld in full under sections:

- 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.
- 9(2)(h) of the Act in order to maintain legal professional privilege. The greater public interest is in ensuring that government agencies can continue to obtain confidential legal advice.

I have considered whether the public interest in releasing the information, namely in terms of transparency and accountability of Te Whatu Ora in carrying out its essential role in promoting the health and wellbeing of all New Zealanders, outweighs these harms. I do not consider that is the case.

The following report - Te Whatu Ora Board meeting Board minutes 23 September 2022 is available online at the following link: www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/assets/Board-Minutes/00-Te-Whatu-OraBoard-Meeting-Minutes-September-23-2022-RELEASED_Redacted.pdf.

information about the New Dunedin Hospital infrastructure project is available publicly on our website. [New Dunedin Hospital – Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand](#). This includes Final Detailed Business Case and other publications. Further information will be added to this page over the coming weeks.

Since the publication of the Final Detailed Business Case, a value management exercise was undertaken due to market cost escalations, so design changes have been made and approved late 2022. An additional \$110 million has been granted to complete the NDH project. Te Whatu Ora Infrastructure and Investment is planning, monitoring or delivering more than 100 public projects across the regions in order to provide safe, fit-for purpose health facilities to New Zealanders [Infrastructure and investment – Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand](#).

Te Pae Tata | interim New Zealand Health Plan 2022 is the formal document that sets out the first two years of action for Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora as we transform healthcare in Aotearoa New Zealand. Over the next two years we will be focusing on the following areas:

- Pae ora – Better health and wellbeing in our communities
- Kahu Taurima – Maternity and the early years
- Mate pukupuku – People living with cancer
- Māuiuitanga taumaha – People living with chronic health conditions
- Oranga hinengaro – People living with mental distress, illness, and addictions

- Improve equity of health outcomes – Deliver on improving pae ora for Māori, Pacific people and Tāngata whaikaha | Disabled people.

We are building a health system that embeds Te Tiriti o Waitangi as its foundation, sharing decision-making and resources and making the whole health system accountable for Māori health equity.

The work Te Whatu Ora does to improve Māori health will reflect the expectation that Māori health improvement and equity is critical to everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand. Actions include:

- Improve equity of health outcomes for Māori and deliver on improving pae ora for Māori.
- Ensure evidence-based policies for prevention and wellbeing. Strong population health and prevention is critical to achieve equity and overall health improvement of Māori.
- Services will be whānau-centred and cohesive, and provide safe, culturally aligned, diverse and inclusive spaces.
- Primary care services for the future will be accessible, affordable, available, and appropriate for Māori.
- We will increase the number of Māori coming into health careers, while also making our organisations safe and mana-enhancing places to work.

Please note: that there were no papers on New Dunedin hospital went to the Board in the months of November 2022 and December 2022.

The focus of Te Whatu Ora is to provide a range of inter-connected health services across the Southern region to meet the health needs of all.

The \$1.58 billion New Dunedin Hospital is, and continues to be, the largest infrastructure project that Te Whatu Ora is undertaking in the country however it has been designed to provide services alongside a range of community health services. New Zealand's health and disability system is multifaceted, the standard of care a community receives does not rest solely on the infrastructure it operates within or the floorplan it rests within.

For your information, the Minister of Health has approved an additional \$55 million to infrastructure projects in the Southern region including interim works and essential maintenance at Dunedin Hospital, a Rural Primary Birthing Unit in Central Otago and purchase of Linear Accelerators.

In response to your query about appointment of South Island management roles, all 4 regional directors for Hospital & Specialist Services are now substantively recruited and in post, accountable to the National Director, Hospital & Specialist Services:

- Mark Shepherd, Northern
- Christine Lowry, Te Manawa Taki
- Russell Simpson, Central
- Dan Pallister-Coward, Te Waiponamu

Each local hospital (district) has an interim lead for Hospital & Specialist Services appointed and accountable to the Regional Directors however, roles will not be substantively recruited until after the consultation on the Hospital & Specialist Services operating model is finalised.

Three of the four Regional Wayfinder roles have been appointed and will be in place by 13 February. The Northern position has an interim Wayfinder whilst a further recruitment round is undertaken to fill this position.

In response to your query about strategy for health services, the Regional Integration Teams will be tasked with ensuring implementation of health service priorities for people of the South Island. This includes a focus on lifting immunisation, reducing wait times for planned care, ensuring acute care is sustained and timely access to cancer services. The Regional Integration Teams will also work on a Regional Population Health Needs Analysis for the South Island, this will inform a Regional Clinical Service Plan and Regional Capital Plan that will guide the work of the region. Community input into these plans will be established this year also as part of South Island input into the New Zealand Health Plan.

Should you have concerns with this response please contact h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Tumu Whakarei (Chief Executive)
Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand

Appendix 1: List of Documents

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	29 July 2022	Capital & Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes	Released in full
2	29 July 2022	Te Whatu Ora Board Minutes	Released in part
3	15 September 2022	Withheld	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
4	23 September 2022	Board Papers CE Report Ap4 Major Decisions Log 189-191	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(h)
5	9 September 2022	Data, Digital and Innovation committee Meeting Minutes	Released in full
6	8 September 2022	Board Papers Committee Minutes Capital and Infrastructure 78-84	Released in part
7	23 September 2022	Te Whatu Ora Board Minutes 23 September 2022	Available online
8	18 October 2022	Board Papers Capital Project New Dunedin Hospital 108-130	Released in part
9	13 October 2022	Board Papers Committee Minutes Capital and Infrastructure 274-282	Released in part
10	8 December 2022	Capital & Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes	Released in part
11	-	Te Pae Tata Report	Released in full
12	-	Te Whatu Ora Board Paper – General Establishment Board Governance Manual	Released in full