

20 June 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)  
Ref: H202205760

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

## Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 29 April 2022 for:

*In relation to the Ministry of Health, the Cancer Control Society, Health New Zealand, and the Māori Health Authority:*

- 1. How many FTE staff in total were employed by your organisation as at 31 December 2021?*
- 2. What percentage of FTE staff in your organisation were earning a salary of \$100,000 or more as at 31 December 2021?*
- 3. How many FTE staff were employed by your organisation for the COVID-19 Response as at 31 December 2021, if any, and how many of these roles are permanent?*
- 4. As of today's date, how many square meters of office space does your organisation have in total?*
- 5. Was there a Government Relations Team in your organisation as at 31 December 2021, and if so, how many FTE staff work in government relations roles? Please answer the above five questions in relation to each of the four organisations individually.*

I will set out the response to your request in part for each of the organisations you have sought information from.

## Ministry of Health

As of 31 December 2021, the Ministry of Health employed a total of 1728.8 FTE staff, of which 49.80% were earning a salary of \$100,000 or more. The Ministry's COVID-19 Health System Response Directorate employed a total of 163.06 FTE. Of these, 3 were employed in permanent roles. Please note that throughout this response, FTE staff has been defined as permanent and fixed-term staff only. It does not include contractors or consultants.

The Ministry of Health leases 22,563 square metres of office space. At the time of writing this response, no space has been formally designated to either interim Health New Zealand or the interim Māori Health Authority. All the office space is leased and paid for by the Ministry. The Ministry does not hold a record of the way in which its floorspace is allocated between the Ministry and the two interim department agencies. Therefore, the part of your request which relates to the office space of Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Authority has been refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist. Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Authority become a separate crown entity and a separate Statutory entity on 1 July 2022. Please find below a table that notates the office space of the Ministry by site location.

<b>Properties leased by the Ministry</b>	<b>Size (sqm)</b>
83 Molesworth Street, Wellington	2101
87 Alexandra Street, Hamilton	108
133 Molesworth Street, Wellington	15643
650 Great South Road, Auckland	1307
179 St Hill St, Whanganui	925
481 Moray Pl, Dunedin	1014
48 Hereford Street, Christchurch	642
Level 5, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street	1177
Level 6, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street [7]	1184

The Ministry has chosen to interpret 'Government Relations Team' as all employees who are in the Government Services Group, excluding contractors and the Minister's office staff. As of 31 December 2021, the Ministry of Health employed a total of 42 FTE staff that met this criterion. This also covers both interim Health New Zealand and the interim Māori Health Authority.

### **Te Aho o Te Kahu – Cancer Control Agency (Te Aho)**

As of 31 December 2021, Te Aho employed 53.72 FTE staff, of which 64.30% were earning a salary of \$100,000 or more. No staff were employed by Te Aho solely for the purpose of the COVID-19 response.

As of 10 May 2022, Te Aho has 739 square metres of office space. This is comprised of four regional hubs and a Wellington office based in the Ministry of Health Building at 133 Molesworth Street. Please find a table below that notates the office space by site location.

<b>Properties leased by the Cancer Control Agency</b>	<b>Size (sqm)</b>
133 Molesworth Street	396
650 Great South Road, Auckland	72
L2, 16 Clarence St, Hamilton	60
619 Featherston Street, Palmerston North	151
32 Oxford Tce, Christchurch	60

Te Aho does not have a Government Relations Team.

### **Interim Health New Zealand (iHNZ)**

As of 31 December 2021, iHNZ employed 4.75 FTE staff. Because there are so few staff at iHNZ, releasing information regarding salaries may allow identification of specific individuals.

Therefore, the part of your request that asks how many FTE staff at iHNZ earn a salary of \$100,000 or more is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

No staff were employed by iHNZ solely for the purpose of the COVID-19 response.

#### **Interim Māori Health Authority (iMHA)**

As of 31 December 2021, iMHA employed 2.9 FTE staff. Because there are so few staff at iMHA, releasing information regarding salaries may allow identification of specific individuals. Therefore, the part of your request that asks how many FTE staff at iMHA earn a salary of \$100,000 or more is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. I have considered the countervailing public interest in release in making this decision and consider that it does not outweigh the need to withhold at this time.

No staff were employed by iMHA solely for the purpose of the COVID-19 response.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests](http://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests).

Nāku noa, nā



Celia Wellington  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Corporate Services**