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13 December 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2022017670

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 Manatū Hauora (the Ministry of Health) on 28 November 2022 for information regarding the Snowflake programme used by Manatū Hauora. Your request is responded to below in turn:

1. *I would like to understand how MOH initially procured Snowflake, whether it is still being used within that procurement plan and whether it is still within the costs.*

A license for Snowflake was originally procured in April 2020 as a cloud storage solution to store COVID-19 related data for analysis and reporting. A solution was urgently required with the ability to consume new data sources, link with locally held Manatū Hauora data, and accessibility for Manatū Hauora analysts and the wider health sector.

The system is still being used for this purpose and was expanded in April 2021 to house additional data previously stored in the Manatū Hauora Oracle system. There have been no other costs other than licence fees.

2. *If it was procured under an exemption, what exemption, and was this also passed to MBIE for publication?*

The original procurement was conducted under *Exemption rule 14.9a: Emergency*. A solution was urgently required to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The contract extension in April 2021 was conducted under *Exemption Rule 14.9c: For technical reasons there is only one supplier*. This information was not passed to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) for publication.

3. *Has the use expanded beyond the initial procurement requirements?*

As noted above, the use of Snowflake was expanded in April 2021 to house additional data previously stored in the Manatū Hauora Oracle system. Please note, that as of 1 July 2022, operation and management of Snowflake transferred to Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand). Inquiries relating to the current usage of Snowflake and future procurement should be directed to Te Whatu Ora. The Data and Digital team responsible for the use of Snowflake at Te Whatu Ora can be contacted here: digitalhealth@health.govt.nz.

I trust this information fulfils your request. 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 or by calling 0800 802 602.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Celia Wellington'.

Celia Wellington
Deputy Director General
Corporate Services | Te Pou Tiaki