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13 November 2025

s 9(2)(a)

Ref: H2025074283

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 – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 17 October 2025, in follow up to your previous request made under the Act (H2025072284 refers). You requested:

*“Ms Watts’ letter says the Health Assurance Unit “ceased” on 30 June. I’m not sure how that can be the case when a media release from Mr Brown’s office dated 7 July says, of Mr Bowkett, he “currently” leads the unit, which gives an inference the unit then still existed – unless the media release was incorrect.*

*I’m sure you will have access to the full release, but regardless, you can see it here, noting that the Beehive.govt.nz version is truncated:*

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA2507/S00050/new-governance-for-health-new-zealand.htm>”

As noted in the previous response, the HAU, as it was established and housed in the Public Service Commission, ceased on 30 June 2025. The remaining functions of the unit and work programme transferred to the Ministry of Health on 1 July 2025, and these have now been embedded within the relevant areas of the Ministry.

On 1 July 2025, Mr Bowkett was appointed as Crown Observer to Health New Zealand. He also transferred to the Ministry of Health and continues to support and provide oversight of the relevant HAU functions formerly held by the unit as they transferred into the Ministry. He also provides advice and support to the Director-General of Health.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: [oiagr@health.govt.nz](mailto:oiagr@health.govt.nz).

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.

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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



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**Ministry of Health**