

Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with Illumina

Date due to MO: 29 January 2026 **Date of Meeting:** 3 February 2026

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Reference:** H2025077091

To: Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

Consulted: Health New Zealand:

Proactive release: This **title** is proposed by the Ministry of Health for proactive release:

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
James Oughton	Chief Advisor Precision Health, Strategy and Policy	s 9(2)(a)

Author: James Oughton, Chief Advisor Precision Health, Strategy and Policy

Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with Illumina

Date due:	29 January 2026		
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	Reference:	H2025077091

About the Meeting

Purpose of Meeting: Illumina Introductions and NZ National Genomics Pilot Update

Details of Meeting:

Date: 3 February 2026
Time: 10:20 - 10.40
Venue: Auckland Policy Office (APO)

Attendees Renee Gallagher – Senior Executive Specialist, Reproductive and Genetic Health
 Katie Ellis, Senior Manager, Medical Affairs, Illumina

Organisation Illumina

Ministry representatives Not currently attending – officials can attend at your request

Comment/ Summary:

- Health NZ is piloting genomic testing for cancer and rare disorders at Canterbury Health Laboratories to assess clinical benefits, equity impacts and workforce readiness. This is aligned with the emerging National Genomics Strategy and results can inform a potential national genomics service.
- Illumina is providing significant in-kind support for the pilot including a sequencing machine, cloud-based analytics, training, and reduced per-sample testing costs.
- s 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]
- Future national decisions will depend on pilot outcomes, and any scale-up must consider multiple vendors through a contested process to ensure value for money, flexibility, and long-term sustainability.

Background and context

1. Health New Zealand is progressing a two-year clinical pilot to evaluate Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) for rare disorders and Comprehensive Genomic Profiling (CGP) for cancer within the public health system.
2. Illumina is an American biotechnology company, headquartered in San Diego, California. Illumina develops, manufactures, and markets systems to analyse genetic variation. The company provides products and services such as DNA sequencing machines, and they have a footprint in more than 155 countries.
3. The pilot is being delivered at Canterbury Health Laboratories (CHL), supported by Illumina, and will assess clinical utility, health equity gains, workforce readiness, operational efficiency, and the economic case for a national genomics service.
4. The pilot aims to reduce reliance on overseas send-away testing, improve turnaround times, ensure data sovereignty, and enable the repatriation of up to 11 types of genomic tests currently sent overseas.

Illumina's contribution to the pilot

5. Illumina will provide:
 - a. A next generation sequencing machine on loan to CHL for 2 years.
 - b. IT infrastructure to enable an end-to-end, patient sample to report solution including cloud storage of data.
 - c. On-site support and training for validation and implementation of genomic testing.
 - d. Reduced costs per sample for the duration of the pilot which includes reagents, software, bioinformatics, reporting and cloud storage.
 - e. Funding for a third party to perform an economic evaluation of the pilot for the purpose of assessing the clinical utility and health economics of performing genomic testing locally.

Financial summary

6. s 9(2)(b)(ii)
7. Operating costs s 9(2)(b)(ii) reflect testing 1,792 samples in year one and approximately 6,000 samples in year two. This covers CHL testing volumes for cancer, along with CHL performing rare disorder testing from other regions.
8. Workforce costs are included in the operating costs and cover new FTE to process testing and include a medical laboratory scientist, genetic pathologist and project support.
9. If adopted nationally, the model has the potential to generate approximately \$5 million in operational savings over five years, primarily through reducing the current \$20.1 million spent on tests that are currently being sent overseas. Without local capability it is

expected that additional testing will require to be sent overseas, potentially increasing this amount.

10.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(g)(i)

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

James Oughton
Chief Advisor, Precision Health
Strategy and Policy

Appendix 1: Profiles of attendees

Katie Ellis, Senior Manager Medical Affairs, Illumina



Katie is a Registered Genetic Counsellor and a Senior Manager of Medical Affairs at Illumina. In her role, Katie covers all clinical segments across Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea educating and raising awareness of genomics. Prior to her current role, Katie was a Senior Genetic Counsellor for Genea and the Canberra Hospital. Katie holds a Bachelor of Science and a Graduate Diploma in Higher Education from the Australian National University.

Renee Gallagher, Senior Executive Specialist, Reproductive and Genetic Health, Illumina



Renee is a genomics specialist and commercial leader with extensive experience across the clinical genomics, diagnostics, and biotechnology sectors, and is currently a Senior Executive Specialist at Illumina, covering Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore. Prior to her current role, Renee progressed through several senior commercial and scientific positions at Illumina. Before joining Illumina, Renee held roles spanning business development, laboratory innovation, and advanced genomics testing. Over her 20-year career, she has validated and implemented numerous genomic assays and led major laboratory transformation initiatives. Renee holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Science) from Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

PROACTIVELY RELEASED