

[REDACTED]

Ref: H201900201

Dear [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

I refer to your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), clarified on 25 January 2019, for:

“Could you please provide me with the information on how many Ministry of Health employees received remuneration with regard to termination of employment and/or personal grievance in the first six months of the current financial year and a breakdown of the amounts involved. Also, how did these amounts compare with the same period the previous year and the total for that previous year. Any explanatory information would be welcome.

By breakdown, I had in mind something like used to appear in my local dhb annual report(see below) If it were possible to have an indication of which ones were personal grievances, restructuring etc that would also be appreciated.”

Payments can be made for a number of different reasons, including personal grievances, employment relationship problems, redundancy, medical retirement, early retirement, employment terminated due to the passing of an employee, etc.

Please see Appendix One for information related to your request.

Under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, we have decided to withhold dividing the data for the first six months of the 2018/19 financial year into categories, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. This is because the numbers are low for each category, and the associated risk that individuals and their payment amounts may potentially be identifiable. I am satisfied that there is no countervailing public interest in the release of the information by categories.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Ministry of Health website.

Yours sincerely


Sue Gordon
Deputy Director-General
Corporate Services

Appendix One

First six months 2018/2019 financial year

Number of payments	Total amount (\$)
20	649,540.35

First six months 2017/2018 financial year

Settlements and amounts split by category		
Type	Number of payments	Total amount (\$)
Personal grievances	3	263,295.20
Redundancies	25	1,115,065.35
Medical-related	4	101,587.90
Other	9	314,020.88
Total settlements	41	1,793,969.33

Total 2017/2018 financial year

Settlements and amounts split by category		
Type	Number of payments	Total amount (\$)
Personal grievances	5	314,052.20
Redundancies	26	1,160,065.35
Medical-related	6	116,805.24
Other	19	591,958.45
Total settlements	56	2,182,881.24