



Response to your request for official information

I refer to your request of 26 June 2019 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

"Can the MOH please provide a response on the following?

I note the Southern, Waikato DHBs have replaced boards with commissioners. Can the MOH please provide the names of the respective commissioners? With regards to the Southern DHB Commissioner is the individual the same appointment at the time the Southern DHB was dismissed. Also can the MOH please provide or advise the salary which is paid to both Commissioners or would expect to receive. If the salaries between each commissioner varies then please advise accordingly."

The respective Commissioners appointed by the Minister of Health are:

Ms Kathy Grant, Commissioner at Southern DHB.

Ms Grant was appointed on 18 June 2015 following the dismissal of the Southern DHB Board. Her term as Commissioner ends when the incoming Southern DHB Board takes office in December.

Dr Karen Poutasi, Commissioner at Waikato DHB.

Dr Poutasi was appointed on 8 May 2019. Her term ends at the date of the next election that is held for Waikato DHB.

Remuneration of Commissioners

Neither Dr Poutasi nor Ms Grant are paid a salary, but have set daily fees. The Fee level for a Commissioner recognises the need for experience at the most senior level to work with multiple stakeholders in a complex environment to drive significant performance improvement in a short space of time. The expectation is that it would

therefore be more of a 'hands on' role than that of a Chair of a standard DHB board, especially in the immediate term.

The role also attracts a high level of ministerial and parliamentary scrutiny and multiple stakeholder expectations. The personal risk to an individual Commissioner's reputation is similarly high, as finding a more sustainable solution to improve the DHB's financial position in a short period of time may impact their own professional standing. This fee assumes a time commitment of approximately two to three days per week and are paid by the respective DHB.

Ms Grant is paid \$1400 per day up to a capped limit of \$180,000 per annum and Dr Poutasi is paid \$1800 per day up to a capped limit of \$230,000 per annum.

There is a difference between the two Commissioner's daily rates as there are differing skillsets and experience required, as well as differing challenges, at each DHB.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28(3) 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



Sarah Turner

**Deputy Director-General
Office of the Director-General**