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Ref: H201906190



Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 3 July 2019, for:

"Has the Ministry provided any reports to the Minister following its being asked last year to help the SDHB draw up a financial recovery plan? If so, can I please request them under the OIA?"

I would like to acknowledge and apologise for the delay in responding to this request for information. I am sorry for any inconvenience this delay may have caused.

The Ministry continues to work with Southern District Health Board (SDHB) in order to develop a financial recovery plan.

The Ministry has provided two reports to Hon Dr David Clark which contain information regarding the development of SDHB's financial recovery plan. The majority of these documents contain no reference to SDHB's financial recovery plan. As such, the relevant excerpts of these documents are provided below:

Report, 'Waikato, Canterbury and Southern DHBs' Performance and Next Steps', dated 1 March 2019

'At the Ministry's request, the DHB is developing a financial recovery plan, and has identified five key focus areas to drive efficiencies and reduce costs (pharmaceuticals, valuing patient time, medical workforce, clinical procurement and electives). The DHB is working to have a draft financial recovery plan to the Ministry shortly. The Ministry is now also providing financial planning support and cost control advice on site at the DHB. The Ministry will be closely monitoring progress on its financial recovery for the remainder of the financial year and into 2019/20.'

Report, 'Minister's Speed Dating with Chairs and Chief Executives of DHBs', dated 4 April 2019

'Recovery planning: The DHB is developing a financial recovery plan and identified five key focus areas under the topics of Nursing workforce, SMO remuneration, Pharmaceutical utilisation, Procurement, and Valuing Patient Time. This is a good

step, and you may wish to encourage continued progress, reinforcing the need for good execution and planning into 2019/20 and beyond'

I trust that this information fulfils your request. Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Arrowsmith

Deputy Director-General

DHB Performance, Support and Infrastructure