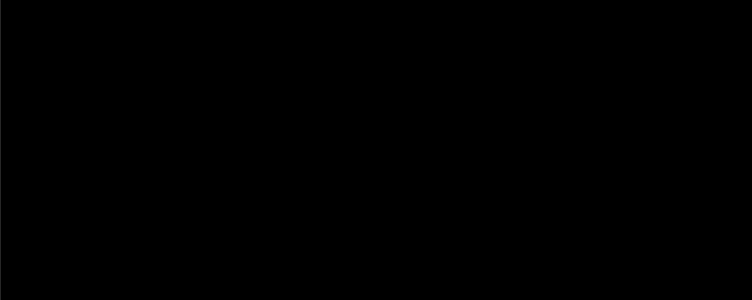


26 August 2019

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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 24 July 2019, for:

"In the Budget 2019, \$21 million was announced for ambulance funding increases.

- *Was this funding earmarked for any particular use that restricts St Johns or Wellington Free from using this to increase wages or provide shift pay to ambulance professions?*
- *Was there a particular intention from the Ministry on how this funding should be allocated by St Johns or Wellington Free?"*

In Budget 2019, the Government committed to investing \$21 million into our ambulance services over the next two years to 30 June 2021. The release of the funding is dependent on the outcomes of a financial and ambulance service review, both of which are currently underway, and a report back to Cabinet on the outcomes of this review.

Funding is provided for costs associated with stabilising the financial condition of St John's road ambulance service and potential flow-on costs for Wellington Free Ambulance.

The Ministry anticipates the funding will relieve immediate pressures and provide certainty while St John and Wellington Free Ambulance work with the Ministry, ACC and district health boards on the long-term sustainability of their services.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keriana Brooking".

Keriana Brooking
Deputy Director-General
Health System Improvement and Innovation