



Response to your request for official information

I refer to your request of 29 July 2019 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

"Can the MOH please confirm and provide a response on the following in relation to two DHB Commissioners, namely:

- A. *Ms Kathy Grant, Southern DHB*
- B. *Dr Karen Poutasi, Waikato DHB*

With regards to A and B in the above, can the MOH please provide the principal or primary reason these boards were either sacked or dismissed, or the inferred or implied catalyst?

Also, was A's and B's appointment made by the Ministers of Health?

If so can the MOH please provide why or what were the reasons the two appointments were given priority? Or primacy?"

Ms Kathy Grant, Commissioner at Southern DHB

Ms Grant was appointed on 18 June 2015 following the dismissal of the Southern DHB Board, by the previous Minister of Health, Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman.

Dr Coleman appointed Ms Grant as he did not have confidence that the governance arrangements that were in place, could deliver on the changes required at Southern DHB to address the significant and worsening deficits faced.

Further information relating to Dr Coleman's decision is publicly available at:
<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1506/S00279/southern-dhb-board-dismissed-commissioner-appointed.htm>

Dr Karen Poutasi, Commissioner at Waikato DHB

Dr Karen Poutasi was appointed on 8 May 2019 by the current Minister of Health, Hon Dr David Clark. His decision to dismiss the board of Waikato DHB was deemed necessary to address the DHB's deteriorating financial position, lack of strong governance and ongoing performance issues with clinical services, as well as the DHB's inability to recruit a permanent chief executive.

Further information relating to Hon Dr David Clark's decision is publicly available at:

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/commissioner-appointed-waikato-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
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Office of the Director-General