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29 April 2024

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2024039070

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 6 April 2024. You requested:

could you share what advice you provided the mental health minister about potential cuts to the Suicide Prevention Office before Thurs 4 April, please.

The Minister for Mental Health, Hon Matt Doocey was informed by the Ministry of a press release regarding the potential closure and job losses within the Suicide Prevention Office (SPO) on Thursday 4 April 2024. Prior to this, information regarding changes to the SPO specifically had not been provided to the Minister.

The Ministry has acknowledged that it was not sufficiently clear to both staff and the Minister about the proposed changes to the SPO and has publicly apologised for this.

It is important to note that the proposal for the future of the SPO is to change from 5.5 FTEs currently within the SPO, to 6.5 FTEs with a focus on suicide prevention across teams within the Mental Health, Addiction and Suicide Prevention Group. This would also maintain the functions and work programme while being organised differently.

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Manatū Hauora website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Geoff Short
Director
Transformation Management Office