



4 October 2023



Ref: OIA-2023/24-0169

Dear

**Official Information Act request relating to establishment of Te Whatu Ora**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 6 September 2023. You requested:

*Can I please ask how much has been spent on the change of new health system including extraction of Te Whatu Ora from Ministry of Health as well as combining 30 entities into one massive organisation while they still work differently from each other and are still called DHBs at many places.*

*Please provide data:  
From 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2022  
From 1 Jan to 31 July 2023*

*What Advice did the former PM Ardern get regarding risks involved and what was done done to mitigate those risks from your office.*

*I don't need the full briefings but relevant extracts and emails should be suffice.*

I understand your request has also been transferred to the Ministry of Health and you will receive a response from them in accordance with the statutory timeframes.

For clarity, I will respond to your questions in turn.

*Can I please ask how much has been spent on the change of new health system including extraction of Te Whatu Ora from Ministry of Health as well as combining 30 entities into one massive organisation while they still work differently from each other and are still called DHBs at many places.*

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The Health and Disability System Review Transition Unit (the Unit) was established within DPMC in 2020 and led the response to the Health and Disability System review. The responsibilities of the Unit included developing the policy response and design of the system operating model and providing advice on the establishment of new entities and legislative change.

DPMC is only able to provide information in relation to the Unit, who were not responsible for the majority of the funding of the Health and Disability System Reform. The Ministry of Health

will be able to provide more information in regard to expenditure that fell under Vote Health ([Vote Health | Ministry of Health NZ](#)).

Expenditure relating to the Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet, Health and Disability System Reform appropriation which funded the Unit, by financial year, can be found in the DPMC Annual Reports for the years 2020/21 and 2021/22 found on the DPMC website <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/publications>

Note that the Health and Disability System Review Transition Unit was disestablished on 30 September 2022.

The Estimates of Expenditure for 2023/24 provide information on estimated expenditure for the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, available online within the Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet table of Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-06/est23-v4-pmcab.pdf>

Information regarding actual expenditure for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 will be published in the upcoming DPMC Annual Report 2022/23. Therefore, this information is currently not available and is withheld under section 18(d) of the Act, on the basis that it will soon be publicly available.

As there was no appropriation for the Unit for the period of 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2023 this aspect of the request is refused under section 18(g) as that information does not exist.

*What Advise did the former PM Ardern got regarding risks involved and what was done done to mitigate those risks from your office.*

*I don't need the full briefings but relevant extracts and emails should be suffice*

We have interpreted the time period for this aspect of your request as the same time period for the requested expenditure, 1 January 2022 to 31 July 2023. As Rt Hon Dame Jacinda Ardern's tenure as Prime Minister ended on 25 January 2023, we have searched our records for the period of 1 January 2022 to 25 January 2023.

Following our search, identified as relevant to this aspect of your request are some briefings provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Policy Advisory Group to the former Prime Minister, Rt Hon Dame Jacinda Ardern. These briefings were provided to the Prime Minister in confidence to support her in her role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. The dates and titles of these briefings are withheld in their entirety under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(f)(ii), to maintain collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

Where section 9 of the Act applies, in making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding that information.

No other documentation was identified as in scope.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Janine Smith  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**Policy Advisory Group**