



24 November 2023



Ref: OIA-2023/24-0247

Dear 

**Official Information Act request relating to the Implementation Unit's work on mental health**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 17 October 2023. You requested:

*"Please provide me with the following work from the Implementation Unit:*

- Stocktake of progress on suicide prevention that was due to be provided to the finance minister in April;*
- Report on the four initiatives rated as problematic in the year 3 stocktake of Budget 2019 mental health initiatives, which was delivered to the finance minister in February;*
- Year 4 stocktake of the Budget 2019 mental health initiatives;*
- Any other briefings provided by the implementation unit relating to mental health or addictions in the past six months."*

On 14 November 2023, we wrote to you extending the time limit for response by 13 working days, to 4 December 2023. The additional time was needed to complete consultations before a final decision was made on your request. I am now in a position to respond.

Regarding Part 3 of your request for the "Year 4 Stocktake of the Budget 2019 mental health initiatives," the Year 3 Stocktake is the last stocktake that has been prepared by the Implementation Unit. This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that a Year 4 Stocktake does not exist.

For Parts 1 and 2 of your request, both the requested documents are appendices to the Cabinet paper "Implementation Unit: Review of the Implementation Unit, Work Programme to 31 December 2023 and Progress Report on Assignments as at 20 June 2023" which is now publicly available on the DPMC website.

The link to the Cabinet paper is here: [www.dPMC.govt.nz/publications/proactive-release-implementation-unit-review-implementation-unit-work-programme-31-december-2023-and-progress-report-assignments-20-june-2023](http://www.dPMC.govt.nz/publications/proactive-release-implementation-unit-review-implementation-unit-work-programme-31-december-2023-and-progress-report-assignments-20-june-2023).

Part of Request	Appendix of Released Cabinet paper	Date	Title	Decision
Part 1	Appendix D	21/04/2023	Briefing: Stocktake of Delivery of the Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2019-2024	Contact information withheld under: 9(2)(a)
Part 2	Appendix B	24/02/2023	Briefing: Rapid Assessment: Follow up from the Year Three Stocktake of the 2019 Budget Mental Health and Addiction Package	Contact information withheld under: 9(2)(a)

For Part 4 of your request for any other relevant briefings over the last six months, please find **attached** a document of all the relevant extracts from the monthly reports provided by the Implementation Unit. This is under section 16(e) of the Act.

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.

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

This response may 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



Stephen Crombie  
**Executive Director**  
**Implementation Unit**

## Extracts from monthly reports to the Minister of Finance April 2023 to September 2023

### April 2023 Monthly Report

This report provides a summary of the Implementation Unit's ('the IU') progress against its work programme for April 2023 and advises on the IU's focus for May 2023.

- Continuing to support agencies to implement recommendations from completed reports:
  - Ministry of Health (MoH) following the Suicide Prevention Plan Delivery Stocktake and the Mental Health and Addiction Package (MHAP) Rapid Assessment.

**Table 1: Status as at the end of April 2023 of work on current follow-on commissions from the IU's work programme agreed in 2022.**

Mental Health and Addiction Package (MHAP) Rapid Assessment	
Key actions during April	No actions taken this month.
Coming actions in May	The Rapid Assessment will be included in the IU's update to the CPC meeting on 30 May 2023.
Emerging findings, observations	Not applicable.
Stocktake of the Delivery of the Suicide Prevention Plan 2019 – 2024	
Key actions during April	The IU submitted the Suicide Prevention Stocktake of Delivery to your office on 21 April 2023.
Coming actions in May	The IU will support you to discuss the findings of the report with the Minister of Health. The IU will work with your office to schedule the meeting.
Emerging findings, observations	Not applicable.

### May 2023 Monthly Report

This report provides a summary of the Implementation Unit's ('the IU') progress against its work programme for May 2023 and advises on the IU's focus for June 2023.

The IU's focus for June 2023 includes:

- Continuing to support agencies to implement recommendations from completed reports:
  - Ministry of Health following the Stocktake of Suicide Prevention Plan 2019-2024.

Mental Health and Addiction Package (MHAP) Rapid Assessment	
Key actions during May	No actions taken this month.

<b>Coming actions in June</b>	The Rapid Assessment will be included in the IU's update to the CPC meeting on 20 June 2023.
<b>Emerging findings, observations</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Stocktake of the Delivery of the Suicide Prevention Plan 2019 – 2024</b>	
<b>Key actions during May</b>	The IU submitted the Stocktake report to your office on 21 April 2023.
<b>Coming actions in June</b>	The IU will support you to discuss the findings of the report with the Minister of Health at the meeting scheduled for Monday 12 June 2023. The Stocktake will be included in the IU's update to the CPC meeting on 20 June 2023.
<b>Emerging findings, observations</b>	Not applicable.

### June 2023 Monthly Report

This report provides a summary of the Implementation Unit's (IU) progress against its work programme for June 2023 and advises on the IU's focus for July 2023.

The IU's focus for July 2023 includes:

- Continuing to support agencies to implement recommendations from completed reports, including:
  - Ministry of Health following the Stocktake of Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2019-2024.

<b>Mental Health and Addiction Package (MHAP) Rapid Assessment</b>	
<b>Key actions in June</b>	The Rapid Assessment was included in the IU's update to the Cabinet Priority Committee (CPC) meeting on 20 June 2023.
<b>Coming actions in July</b>	The IU will meet with the Ministry of Health and the Department of Corrections to discuss next steps on the IU's recommendations in the report.
<b>Stocktake of the Delivery of the Suicide Prevention Plan 2019 – 2024</b>	
<b>Key actions in June</b>	The Stocktake was included in the IU's update to the CPC meeting on 20 June 2023. The IU attended the meeting on Wednesday 21 June 2023 between you and the Minister of Health to discuss the findings of the report.
<b>Coming actions in July</b>	The IU will meet with the Ministry of Health to discuss next steps on the IU's recommendations in the report.

### July 2023 Monthly Report

This report provides a summary of the Implementation Unit's (IU) progress against its work programme for July 2023 and advises on the IU's focus for August 2023.

The IU's focus for August 2023 includes:

- Continuing to support and engage with agencies to implement recommendations from completed reports, including:
  - the Department of Corrections following the Rapid Assessment: Follow up from the Year Three Stocktake of the 2019 Budget Mental Health Addiction Package.
  - Ministry of Health following the Stocktake of Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2019-2024.

<b>Mental Health and Addiction Package (MHAP) Rapid Assessment</b>	
<b>Key actions in July</b>	The IU met with the Ministry of Health and the Department of Corrections to discuss next steps on the IU's recommendations in the report.
<b>Coming actions in August</b>	The IU will engage with both agencies to discuss and report on further progress against the recommendations.
<b>Emerging findings, observations</b>	<p>The Department of Corrections is looking to appoint externally to progress the adoption of a programme management approach in response to the IU's recommendation as actions to recruit internally have not been successful to date. It also continues to directly integrate procurement into project planning drawing on MBIE's expertise and tailored approaches such as relational contracting.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health has added a section to its quarterly report to CPC on initiatives rated as requiring significant attention or action, which outlines risks (and action taken in response). Adoption of a relational approach to contracting by Te Whatu Ora will be informed by the structural change under way across the commissioning arm of Te Whatu Ora as a result of the health reforms.</p>
<b>Stocktake of the Delivery of the Suicide Prevention Plan 2019 – 2024</b>	
<b>Key actions in July</b>	The IU met with the Ministry of Health to discuss next steps on the IU's recommendations in the report. The Minister of Health included information on next steps for actions in the Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2019-2024 that are not yet completed in her Annual Report to Cabinet.
<b>Coming actions in August</b>	The IU will engage with the Ministry of Health to discuss and report on any further progress against the recommendations.
<b>Emerging findings, observations</b>	<p>The Ministry of Health has started to undertake a range of actions in response to the IU's recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• creating milestones and measures for the next Action Plan (2024-2029), which is currently under development.</li> <li>• placing greater attention on suicide prevention under existing governance structures on wellbeing and as part of wider cross-government work around mental wellbeing.</li> <li>• increasing engagement between the Suicide Prevention Office (SPO) and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission on areas of common interest, such as youth mental health and digital harms.</li> </ul>

The IU's report recommended revisiting the placement of system level roles in relation to suicide prevention for the SPO and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. This is not on the Ministry's immediate work programme, to allow further time for the reforms to embed.

### August 2023 monthly report

This report provides a summary of the Implementation Unit's (IU) progress against its work programme for August 2023 and advises on the IU's focus for September 2023.

The IU's focus for September 2023 includes:

- Continuing to support and engage with agencies to implement recommendations from completed reports, including:
  - Ministry of Health and the Department of Corrections following the Rapid Assessment: Follow up from the Year Three Stocktake of the 2019 Budget Mental Health Addiction Package.
  - Ministry of Health following the Stocktake of Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2019-2024 and the Assessment of Working Arrangements for the Health Reforms.

Tables 1 and 2 outline the status of each assignment in the IU's work programme and note any emerging findings or observations this month.

**Table 1: Status as at the end of August 2023 of work on current follow-on commissions from the IU's work programme agreed in 2022**

<b>Mental Health and Addiction Package (MHAP) Rapid Assessment</b>	
<b>Key actions in August</b>	The IU sought advice from the Ministry of Health and the Department of Corrections on any further progress against the IU's recommendations in the report.
<b>Coming actions in September</b>	Engage with the Ministry of Health and the Department of Corrections on any further progress against the recommendations.
<b>Emerging findings, observations</b>	<p>The Department of Corrections are addressing the IU recommendations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recruiting externally to progress the adoption of a programme management approach as actions to recruit internally have not been successful to date; once the job sizing is completed, it will recruit externally for a Project Coordinator</li> <li>• continuing to directly integrate procurement into project planning drawing on MBIE's expertise and tailored approaches such as relational contracting.</li> </ul> <p>The Ministry of Health are addressing the IU recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with the Cabinet Priorities Committee (CPC) not meeting in September 2023, the Ministry intends to provide the next quarterly mental wellbeing report, capturing progress through to the end of Quarter 4 2022/23, to the Minister of Health by the end of September 2023</li> <li>• this will include reporting on the Department Alcohol Other Drugs (AOD) aftercare support services initiative that remained rated as 'problematic' in the IU February 2023 report</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by advising that the adoption of a relational approach to contracting by Te Whatu Ora will be informed by the structural change under way across the commissioning arm of Te Whatu Ora as a result of the health reforms.</li> </ul>
<b>Stocktake of the Delivery of the Suicide Prevention Plan 2019 – 2024</b>	
<b>Key actions in August</b>	The IU sought advice from the Ministry of Health on any further progress during August against the IU’s recommendations in the report.
<b>Coming actions in September</b>	Engage with the Ministry of Health on any further action against the recommendations.
<b>Emerging findings, observations</b>	<p>The Ministry of Health is progressing work to develop the next Suicide Action Plan (2025-2029) and exploring ways to respond to the IU’s recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>how best to create milestones and measures for the next Suicide Action Plan.</li> <li>opportunities to place greater attention on suicide prevention under existing governance structures on wellbeing and as part of wider cross-government work around mental wellbeing.</li> </ul>

### September 2023 monthly report

This report provides a summary of the Implementation Unit’s (IU) progress against its work programme for September 2023.

The IU will also continue to support and engage with agencies to implement recommendations from completed reports, including:

Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Oranga Tamariki, and Kāinga Ora following the Stocktake of the Public Housing Register.

- Ministry of Health and the Department of Corrections following the Rapid Assessment: Follow up from the Year Three Stocktake of the 2019 Budget Mental Health Addiction Package.

Ministry of Health following the Stocktake of Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2019-2024 and the Assessment of Working Arrangements for the Health Reforms.

Tables 1 and 2 outline the status of each assignment in the IU’s work programme and note any emerging findings or observations this month.

**Table 1: Status as at the end of September 2023 of work on current follow-on commissions from the IU’s work programme agreed in 2022.**

<b>Mental Health and Addiction Package (MHAP) Rapid Assessment</b>
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Key actions in September	The IU sought advice from the Ministry of Health and the Department of Corrections on any further progress against the IU's recommendations in the report.
Coming actions in October	Engage with the Ministry of Health and the Department of Corrections on any further progress against the recommendations.
Emerging findings, observations	<p>The Department of Corrections is addressing the IU recommendations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recruiting externally for a Project Coordinator (applications due by 8 October).</li> <li>• continuing to directly integrate procurement into project planning drawing on MBIE's expertise and tailored approaches such as relational contracting.</li> </ul> <p>The Ministry of Health is addressing the IU recommendations as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Ministry is due to provide the next quarterly mental wellbeing report to the Minister of Health by the end of September 2023, including reporting on the Department Alcohol Other Drugs (AOD) aftercare support services initiative, which remained rated as 'problematic' in the IU February 2023 Report.</li> </ul>
<b>Stocktake of the Delivery of the Suicide Prevention Plan 2019 – 2024</b>	
Key actions in September	The IU sought advice from the Ministry of Health on any further progress during September against the IU's recommendations in the report.
Coming actions in October	Engage with the Ministry of Health on any further action against the recommendations.
Emerging findings, observations	<p>The Ministry of Health continues to progress work to develop the next Suicide Action Plan (2025-2029) and exploring ways to respond to the IU's recommendations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how best to create milestones and measures for the next Suicide Action Plan.</li> <li>• opportunities to place greater attention on suicide prevention under existing governance structures on wellbeing and as part of wider cross-government work around mental wellbeing.</li> </ul>

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