

30 October 2020

Piers Fuller
Stuff



100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Via email: piers.fuller@stuff.co.nz

Dear Piers

Official Information Act Request – OIA 13152 Cost of Locums in Past Five Years

On 1 October 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

Could you please provide the following information:

What has the DHB spent on locums for medical specialists every year for the past five years in the following departments?

General surgery
Orthopaedics
Enterology
Gynaecology
Ophthalmology
Urology
Cardiology

Could I please have the total locum spend year by year over this period, as well as the total internal staff spent on specialists for the same periods?

What is the size of the population the DHB serves and what is its annual operating budget?

It would also be helpful to have explanations for higher (or lower) than usual locum costs for particular periods and whether or not the DHB offers limited services in respective departments.

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

Could you please provide the following information: What has the DHB spent on locums for medical specialists every year for the past five years in the following departments?

Medical Locum specialists	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
General Surgery	\$405,455	\$40,095	\$183,910	\$880	-
Orthopaedics	\$34,472	\$8,870	\$100,316	\$33,511	\$30,409
Enterology	-	-	-	-	-
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	\$325,982	\$94,483	\$393,901	\$414,870	\$517,894
Ophthalmology	-	\$60,657	\$260,824	\$27,081	\$373,571
Urology	\$125,048	\$120,504	\$106,690	\$78,293	\$64,744
Cardiology	\$21,600	\$15,724	\$19,120	\$19,120	\$19,196

Could you please provide the following information: What has the DHB spent on internal staff for medical specialists every year for the past five years in the following departments?

Medical specialists (internal staff)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
General Surgery	\$1,348,846	\$1,472,189	\$1,694,622	\$1,838,894	\$1,899,810
Orthopaedics	\$1,299,351	\$1,284,486	\$1,365,967	\$1,333,877	\$1,437,796
Enterology	-	-	-	-	-
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	\$1,219,448	\$1,263,169	\$1,276,715	\$1,130,622	\$1,087,382
Ophthalmology	\$419,492	\$380,457	\$290,001	\$540,117	\$313,092
Urology	-	-	-	-	\$87,726
Cardiology					

What is the size of the population the DHB serves and what is its annual operating budget?

\$295m annual operating budget for 2019-20, our population is 68,394.

It would also be helpful to have explanations for higher (or lower) than usual locum costs for particular periods and whether or not the DHB offers limited services in respective departments.

General Surgery – 2017/2018 – cover for maternity leave

Orthopaedics – 2017/2018 – cover whilst recruiting to fill a vacancy, and a visiting orthopaedic back surgeon to provide a service for our patients, and training for our orthopaedic consultants.

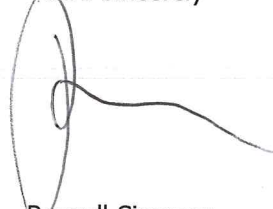
O&G – 2017-2020 – cover whilst recruiting to fill a vacancy, to be filled from Nov 20

Ophthalmology – 2017/2018 – cover for two vacancy ophthalmologist positions. 1 Filled from Sept 20 and the other from Nov 20.

Urology – a regional urology service provided in conjunction with MidCentral DHB.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Yours sincerely



Russell Simpson
Chief Executive