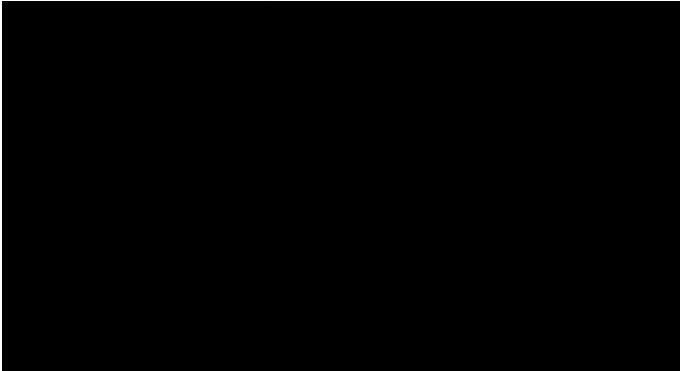


20 October 2020



Re: Official Information Request – DHB locum costs for medical specialists

I refer to your official information request dated 30 September 2020 requesting 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.

The total spend on external locums, paid by invoice, by year is as follows:

Locum Spend	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
General Surgery	\$7,978	\$33,200	\$0	\$26,500	\$0
Orthopaedics	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enterology (Gastroenterology)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Gynaecology (includes Maternity, costs are combined)	\$70,936	\$55,738	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ophthalmology	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Urology	\$14,173	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,760
Cardiology	\$4,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0

The total internal spend on specialists is as follows:

Internal Spend	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
General Surgery	\$3,988,124	\$4,465,530	\$4,126,021	\$4,791,988	\$5,315,735
Orthopaedics	\$4,886,665	\$4,656,771	\$4,651,495	\$5,177,220	\$5,239,599
Enterology (Gastroenterology)	\$1,861,257	\$1,975,860	\$2,173,968	\$2,500,200	\$2,606,578
Gynaecology (includes Maternity, costs are combined)	\$8,859,778	\$10,092,359	\$10,579,309	\$12,173,133	\$12,550,996
Ophthalmology	\$4,726,330	\$5,221,303	\$5,687,804	\$5,988,490	\$5,561,520
Urology	\$2,237,634	\$2,460,424	\$2,320,273	\$2,277,330	\$2,370,450
Cardiology	\$5,915,749	\$6,478,321	\$6,322,361	\$7,084,050	\$7,217,610

Note that we have sourced the information in the above tables via accounts payable as invoiced services, rather than sourcing it from fixed term contracts, as the fixed term contract data is difficult to separate from overall payroll costs and is not reported separately.

The population of Auckland DHB for 2020/21, as used by the MOH for population based funding, is 493,990.

The 2020/21 annual operating expenditure budget for Auckland DHB is \$2,639,116,446.

The spend on locums is not significant, and we have not therefore provided explanations for movements between periods.

Auckland DHB does not offer limited services for these departments.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)