

13 July 2022

██████████  
**By email to:** ██████████

Dear ██████████

**Re: Official Information Request – Mental Health Recruitment  
Information Auckland DHB Ref: 20220613-1223**

I refer to your official information request, partially transferred to us by the Ministry of Health on 11 May 2022, seeking the following information:

- Copies of key documents held by senior management created in the last two years that were substantially about the challenges in recruitment and or the impact of staff pressures in mental health services**
- Copies of any documents pertaining mental health staffing risk reports conducted in the last two years that highlights what the staff pressures in mental health services are?**

**Response**

We are refusing your request citing s 18(e) Official Information Act, because we do not hold the information requested. We do not have key documents from the last two years substantially about the recruitment challenges in the Mental Health and Addictions Service that your request is focussed on. Nor do we have staffing risk reports conducted in the last two years highlighting what the staff pressures in the mental health services are.

Recruitment and retention are currently key issues for public mental health services. Te Toka Tumai Mental Health and Addictions Directorate maintains a close overview of staffing and is proactive in trying to recruit both nationally and internationally. Regular reports are run to track vacancies and staffing levels and recruitment is an ongoing item of discussion with our union partners.

We have decided to release to you, as evidence of this approach, the recent minutes of the Mental Health and Addictions Directorate leadership's regular meeting with the Public Service Association (PSA) representatives. The minutes, enclosed as Attachment 1, document discussions on vacancies. These have been redacted to remove information out of scope of your request.

Attachment 2 is the Vacancy Report, which was discussed at the meeting.

Organisation-wide issues of recruitment also formed part of the reporting to the Board and Hospital Advisory Committee of the former Auckland District Health Board. The minutes of these meetings are available at <https://www.adhb.health.nz/about-us/te-toka-tumai/auckland-dhb-pre-1-july-2022/agendas-and-minutes/>

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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.

Ngā mihi,



**Dr Michael Shepherd**

**Interim District Director**

Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand | Te Toka Tumai Auckland