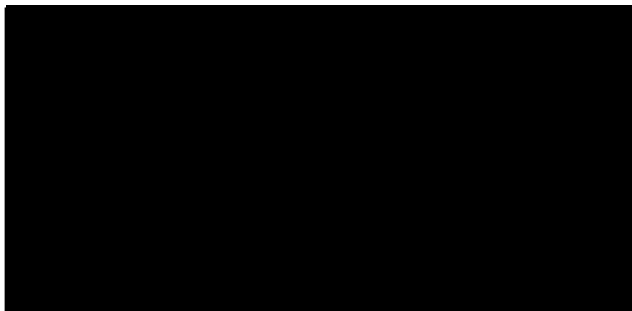


11 September 2018



Re **Official Information Act Request – Mental health spend on patients post suicide attempt**

I refer to your official information request of 14 August 2018 for information about

how much of DHB mental health spending goes towards supporting people who have attempted suicide and if possible the number of people who were treated under the umbrella of mental health after attempting suicide in the last financial year or equivalent reporting period.

This is not referring to hospital admission costs and costs associated with physical injuries.

Auckland DHB does not hold information in a way that allows us to easily identify consumers who enter mental health services following a suicide attempt. We do not hold information on reasons for referral to specialist mental health services. Consumers of mental health services often have other conditions such as severe depression but attempted suicide is not a diagnosis.

Mental health services are also not funded specifically for 'post-suicide attempt' services we provide nor do we account for individual treatment costs. Funding and expenditure is aggregated within the mental health service as a whole.

Auckland District Health Board - as with all DHBs - receives the majority of its allocated funding based on a share of a national funding pool for Mental Health Services. Both the national funding pool and the DHB funding allocation methodologies are revised each financial year based on various factors including changes in population growth and population demographics under a Population Based Funding Formula (PBFF). DHBs do not have visibility of the mental health funding component of either the national funding pool, or their individual PBFF allocations. Auckland DHB is therefore not able to report on how much of this funding component is spent specifically on attempted suicide patients.

Your request is therefore refused under Section 18(e) of the Official Information Act in that the document containing the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

You have the right to request a review of my decision under the Official Information Act 1982 section 28. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive