

20 July 2020

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Re Official Information Request – Correspondence regarding safe staffing and care in maternity services

I refer to your official information request dated 1 July 2020 requesting the following information:

- 1. Since January 1, 2020, copies of any correspondence received from staff, contractors and/or organisations such as unions regarding safe staffing and quality of care in maternity services, and copies of notes, reports, memos, briefings or documents that summarise or refer to such correspondence and/or concerns.**

The scope of the request is very broad and cannot be addressed within the timeframe outlined and would require significant manpower beyond that which is available. Your request is therefore declined under s18(f) Official Information Act (OIA).

The following links are to documents which are in the public domain and outline reports on midwifery staffing:

<http://www.adhb.health.nz/assets/Documents/About-Us/Board-agendas-and-minutes/2020/OPEN-HAC-Meeting-Pack-12-Feb-2020.pdf>

<http://www.adhb.health.nz/assets/Documents/About-Us/Board-agendas-and-minutes/2020/Open-HAC-meeting-pack-18-March-2020.pdf>

- 2. Copies of any reports, documents, memos and briefings related to the overall review ordered to understand if there is anything systemic that may have contributed to the deaths in maternity services this year, including those that reference the reasons for the review, and any feedback/input from staff, contractors and organisations like unions.**

The terms of reference for the overall review panel have not been drafted. We will forward this to you when they have been finalised.

The balance of your request is declined under s18(f) OIA – substantial collusion; s9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons; s9(2)(ba) – to protect information subject to an obligation of confidence; s9(2)(c) – to avoid prejudice to measures protecting health or safety of the public; and s9(2)(g) – to enable a free and frank expression of opinion.

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