

12 July 2021

██████████
Investigations Editor and Deputy Head of Premium | NZ Herald
By email: ██████████

Dear ████████

Official information request for demand for mental health treatment after coronavirus outbreak

I refer to your official information request dated 29 June 2021 noted above.

You requested:

Copies of any briefings, aide memoire, memoranda, reports, or presentations created by, received by, or presented to the organisation's senior managers from March 2020, that provide information since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak on the level of demand for (a) primary mental health care; (b) secondary, tertiary or specialist mental health care provided by DHBs; and (c) prescriptions for psychiatric medications.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (the Commission) became an Independent Crown Entity on 9 February 2021. Part of the information you have requested, namely information related to the period between March 2020 – 8 February 2021, is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry of Health. In these circumstances, we are required by section 14 of the OIA to transfer your request.

The Ministry of Health have confirmed you have sent this request to them for a response also.

We attach a copy of the transfer to the Ministry of Health for your information. You will hear further from Ministry of Health concerning that part of your request. You can contact them on oiagr@health.govt.nz.

The Commission has not received requests for, or provided information on, demands for mental health treatment after the coronavirus outbreak since it became officially established.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, the Commission publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. If we decide to publish this response, we will not publish your name, address or contact details.

Nāku noa nā



Karen Orsborn
Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive