



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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30 October 2018

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RE Official information request WCDHB 9225

We refer to your email dated 8 October 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB.

Buller Health includes both the general practice (Buller Medical) as well as the hospital service, and has doctors covering both areas. The doctors' employment with us is not split or differentiated between general practice and hospital systems. For the purpose of this request, we have included all doctors working as either locum or permanent employees engaged in the Buller Health system.

With this caveat noted, the answers to your specific questions are as follows:

1. How many locum doctors were employed by Buller Health in the year to June 30, 2018 and how many FTE positions does that equate to?

During the year to 30 June 2018, there were 15 individuals who served as locum doctors at Buller Health in the general practice and the hospital services (as defined above). This equated to 1.51 Full Time Equivalent (FTE).

2. How many permanent GPs were employed by Buller Health in the same period and how many FTE positions does that equate to?

During this period there were eight individuals employed as permanent doctors working across the Buller Health system (as defined above). This equated to an average of 5.94 Full Time Equivalent (FTE).

3. What was the cost of locum doctors for salaries, accommodation, agency fees, travel, and any other costs (each item listed separately please)?

The total cost of locum doctors providing cover to Buller Health (as defined) in the year to 30 June 2018 was \$477,345. This is inclusive of service fees \$384,250, agency fees \$46,458 and other expenses \$46,637.

As advised when you asked this same question in your Official Information Act request of 12 September last year, accommodation and travel costs are incorporated as part of a wider expense

code with effect from 1 July 2015, and are not separately itemised within our finance system. These costs are included as part of "other expenses" above

4. What was the minimum and maximum length of stay among locum doctors working at Buller Health during the year?

The minimum stay by a locum for the year ended June 30, 2018 was two days. Certain other locums have serviced Buller over some years at irregular intervals for varying periods.

5. What was the cost of permanent doctors' salaries, accommodation, training, travel and any other costs (each item listed separately please)?

The total cost of permanent doctors working in the Buller Health (as defined above) in the year to 30 June 2018 was \$1,718,943 inclusive of salaries, accommodation, travel and other costs.

We are declining to provide a further breakdown of these costs under Section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act i.e. *"...to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons."*

6. How many practice nurses has Buller Health employed each year for the past five years (to June 30, 2018) and what does that equate to in FTEs each year?

We only have practice nurses at the Buller Medical general practice service (excluding practice nurse FTE that work in satellite clinics of Buller Medical, such as Ngakawau and Karamea) and have interpreted Questions 6 and 7 accordingly.

This noted the volumes are as follows:

Financial Year	Individual Nurses Employed*	Average FTE
2013/14	15	7.79
2014/15	11	7.80
2015/16	10	7.47
2016/17	11	6.92
2017/18	13	6.95

* The number of practice nurses employed at the Buller Medical general practice service at Westport only.

Counted if employed at any time during the year. Periods of service by individual practice nurses range from short periods up to one month, and up to 12 months per person, in any year.

7. What was the cost of practice nurses each year for the past five years?

As defined in Question 6 above, the cost of the practice nurses employed at Buller Medical in Westport during the past five years is as follows:

Financial Year	Costs
2013/14	\$548,403
2014/15	\$547,500
2015/16	\$541,987
2016/17	\$504,265
2017/18	\$528,079

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hamilton', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Greg Hamilton
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support