



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth

Telephone 03 768 0499
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24 August 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request WCDHB 9449

I refer to your email dated 8 July 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

1. **What percentage of your usual clinical workforce is overseas-trained?**
2. **If possible, please provide percentages of overseas-trained staffers in each of these categories: doctors, nurses, midwives, and allied health, science and technical professionals.**

This information is not held in a central electronic data system and to provide this information would require us to manually review individual employment files which would entail a substantial amount of time and resource. We are therefore declining a response to these two questions pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

3. **What impact do you expect border restrictions to have on the DHB workforce over the next year?**
4. **Are there specialities likely to be under pressure as a result of border restrictions? For example, because there is a small workforce in New Zealand or because of overseas training needs. If so, which specialities?**

We do not believe these two questions come under the Official Information Act and you are asking us for speculative opinion. We don't hold any information that would enable us to respond to these two questions.

5. **Is your DHB currently recruiting for any clinical positions which you cannot fill with New Zealand applicants?**
6. **If so, how many, and what is/are the positions?**

The West Coast currently has 7 FTE vacancies for General Practitioners (GPs) which are difficult to recruit for due to the geographical area. We recruit both nationally and internationally, however, we cannot state categorically that these will not be filled with New Zealand applicants.

7. **Have you had any overseas-trained and recruited clinicians cut contracts short and return home because of Covid?**
8. **If so, how many, and in what category (doctor, nurse...)?**

We do not hold information pertaining to reasons a contract is terminated nor whether the contract was terminated prematurely in a central electronic data system and to provide this information would require a manual search of personal employment files which would entail substantial time and resource. We are therefore declining to provide this information pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. 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 West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support