



# *West Coast District Health Board*

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## *Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini*

Corporate Office  
High Street, Greymouth

Telephone 03 768 0499  
Fax 03 768 2791

24 August 2020

9(2)(a)

### **RE Official information request WCDHB 9451**

I refer to your email dated 21 July 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- **The total sum paid to each medical college by your DHB on behalf of all medical practitioners. For the avoidance of doubt, this is sums paid by the DHB directly to medical colleges and through reimbursements on behalf of SMOs and RMOs. (Clarified as being for the last financial year.)**

We do not hold the information requested in an easily retrievable electronic data system and are therefore declining your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

College fees are primarily paid by the relevant doctor and reimbursed through Payroll. When the College membership fees are reimbursed for both SMO and RMO, our Payroll system does not display which college has been reimbursed.

This means we would need to go back to source documents and given the volume of the task for West Coast DHB, this would take a considerable amount of time and resource.

**Please note:** The West Coast DHB employs 39 (25.0 FTE) SMOs and 12 (8.8 FTE) RMOs.

**Please also note: -**

Section 28.3 from the **RDA MECA** says: *The employer will reimburse the annual cost of membership of relevant postgraduate colleges to eligible employees.*

### **STONZ MECA**

Section 10.3 states: *The employer will reimburse the costs of membership of postgraduate colleges and other associated bodies required as part of a vocational training programme.*

Section 21.2 from the **ASMS MECA**: (see Overleaf)

## 21.2 Work-Related Expenses

- (a) the annual practising certificate, including disciplinary levies;
- (b) other necessary licences e.g. radiation licence;
- (c) Medical Protection Society membership or an agreed alternative;
- (d) vocational registration fees relevant to duties and responsibilities with the employing DHB;
- (e) college membership fees, where membership of the particular college(s) is necessary for the employee's employment;
- (f) membership of other approved professional associations relevant to the employee's duties and responsibilities;

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](http://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



Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**