



# *West Coast District Health Board*

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

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4 February 2021

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[Redacted]

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### **Official Information Request WCDHB 9518**

I refer to your email dated 14 January 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB, specifically:

- **Can I please ask the average cost of the fixed wing plane to ChCh?**
- **How much was spent on this in the past year?**
- **Did ACC pay some of it?**

Each fixed wing plane patient transfer flight differs in cost, depending upon flight time and destination. The current average cost to the DHB of an air ambulance fixed wing plane flight from Grey Hospital to Christchurch is \$4,140 per transfer.

In the twelve months to 30 June 2020, West Coast DHB paid costs of \$567,180 for fixed wing transfers made from Grey Hospital to Christchurch.

West Coast DHB only holds information on costs that it pays for transfers that are incurred by us at request of our clinical staff, for those cases for which we are responsible. From December 2019, the Ministry of Health has paid for medical pre-admission transfers of medical cases that occur under three hours of presentation. ACC pays for inter-hospital transfers that occur within 24 hours of accident for those patients who have an accident-related event.

West Coast DHB does not hold any information relating to the costs for air transfers that are incurred and paid by other agencies such as ACC or the Ministry of Health. We therefore decline to provide the additional information on transfer costs under Section 18 (g) of the Official Information Act i.e. "... *that the information requested is not held*" by the West Coast DHB.

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](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

Ralph La Salle  
**Acting Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**