

05 June 2019

[Redacted]

E-mail: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

### Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 08 May 2018. You requested the following information:

- **Please provide details about the cost to the District Health Board of paying Senior Doctors to provide cover during all of the five strikes by members of the Resident Doctors Association so far this year.**
  - *The dates are Jan 15-16; Jan 29-30; Feb 12-13; Feb 26-27; April 29-May 3 2019.*

District Health Board Senior Medical Officers (SMO) provided additional clinical cover whilst the Registrars and House Officers (RMO) that are NZRDA members were undertaking industrial action in early 2019. Registrars who are part of the SToNZ MECA continued to work as usual during this period.

As per the national agreement with the Association on Salaried Medical Specialists (ASMS), payments are made to any Senior Medical Officers (SMO) for additional work during industrial action, which was a consequence of RMO strike(s) and arose due to being “without their normal level of RMO support, and that resulted in additional work by SMO”.

These payments are additional to ‘usual pay’ (gross fortnightly earnings based on agreed job size, and any allowances). The payment rates recognise additional hours within Job Size, additional hours over Job Size, and “non-routine on-call”. SMO are only eligible to claim for one category of payment for each hour, or part thereof.

The total payments to Senior Medical Officers for each strike period were respectively:

Industrial action	claims	Total period
Strike #1	\$475,675	48 hours (Tues/ Wednesday)
Strike #2	\$428,200	48 hours (Tues/ Wednesday)
Strike #3	\$389,550	48 Hours (Tues/ Wednesday)
Strike #4	\$374,738	48 Hours (Tues/ Wednesday)
Strike #5	\$786,675	120 Hours (Monday- Saturday)

**Total payment for all five strike periods at CM Health - \$2,454,838**

For CM Health, the information provided above is correct at 30 May 2019. There are still a small number of claims being processed, which may slightly alter the totals.

Those costs were offset by reduced costs for employees not working/ on industrial action. The claims relate to a total of 6,380 hours worked by SMO within the terms of the agreement, and 182 SMO claimed payments over the five strike periods.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Apa', with a stylized flourish.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Counties Manukau Health**