

1 November 2024

s9(2)(a)

Via email: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 1 October 2024, which was transferred to us from Health New Zealand (Health NZ), the Ministry of Health and the Treasury. You requested:

*"...a copy of the unredacted version of the "New Dunedin Hospital Review, Independent Expert Readiness Review", Report (**Report**), dated 30 May 2024 which may also be commonly known as the Hospital Rust Review...."*

Health NZ is the lead agency for the New Dunedin Hospital project, with the Ministry of Health, the Treasury and the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission (the Commission) as monitors.

Before signing a construction contract for the New Dunedin Hospital inpatient building, the Government wanted to ensure the project was set up for success and deliverable within budget. So, as well as the standard Health NZ due diligence processes, it asked the Commission to facilitate an independent review of the project. The review culminated in the Report specified in your request.

Before proactively releasing this Report in late September, the Commission consulted with Health NZ, the Ministry of Health and the Treasury on what to redact. Officials agreed that it was necessary to withhold some information to protect commercially sensitive information and to allow commercial negotiations to continue. This includes some financial figures and some commentary relating to the sensitive information.

Officials have reviewed the redactions in the Report to determine whether this information can now be released. We have decided it is necessary to continue withholding the redacted information under the following sections of the Official Information Act (the Act):

Section of Act	Reason to withhold
9(2)(b)(ii)	to avoid prejudice to the commercial position of another party
9(2)(g)(i)	to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments
9(2)(j)	to avoid prejudice to negotiations

In making this decision, officials have re-visited the redactions in the published Report and, for each redaction, have weighed up the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act. In the circumstances, the public interest in the redacted information is outweighed by the need to continue withholding this information.

While we are unable to meet your request, I can assure you that further information about the decisions related to the new Dunedin hospital will soon be publicly available. Officials are preparing their key documents about the Dunedin hospital upgrades for proactive release. Health NZ is coordinating this material and will soon be publishing it on their website here: <https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/health-services-and-programmes/infrastructure-and-investment/new-dunedin-hospital-whakatuputupu>. We encourage you to view this material once it is available.

You may also wish to read the recent written questions to Ministers about the New Dunedin Hospital project and their replies. These can be found on Parliament's website here: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/>.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on our website.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Tebbs  
**General Manager, Policy**