

8 June 2026

Ref: OIA26-TW11

s9(2)(a)

Via email: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

We write to address two matters as follows:

1. Notification of investigation by the Ombudsman received on 12 April 2026; and
2. Your request for information under the Official Information Act (1982) dated 28 September 2024.

Ombudsman Investigation

On 24 March 2026, the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission/Te Waihanga (the Commission) received a notification of investigation from the Ombudsman's office regarding a complaint made in respect of an official information response we provided to you on 8 October 2024. The response was in reference to a proactively released report, *New Dunedin Hospital Review: Independent Expert Readiness Review 30 May 2024* (New Dunedin Hospital Report) which included information withheld under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

We have reviewed the redactions applied to the New Dunedin Hospital Report and provide a new decision on the response to your original request as outlined below that entails the release of some previously withheld information that is no longer sensitive, due to the passage of time.

The Ombudsman's office has agreed to this course of action.

Information Request

Your request for information dated 28 September 2024, which we have numbered for reference as follows:

1. *"I note you have a highly redacted document on the review of the Dunedin hospital build. Why are the important financial figures redacted? I would like to contact those involved and discuss this document. Without the financial figures this document is a waste of time. I also note that the writer is very skilled at interviewing his typewriter, but the document is pretty much crap. This is where the money goes."*

2. "What did this report cost?"

Your request is interpreted to be in respect of the report titled *New Dunedin Hospital Review: Independent Expert Readiness Review* which was published in a redacted form on our website in September 2024 here: <https://tewaihanga.govt.nz/our-work/reviews/dunedin-hospital-independent-review> .

Response and Decision

For Part 1 of your request, the Commission undertook an assessment of the information previously withheld in the proactively released New Dunedin Hospital Report.

My decision is that some of the information previously withheld can now be released given the passage of time. In summary, the information released includes financial figures and contractual details that are no longer commercially sensitive or where decisions have been made. These are contained on pages 7, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 41, 46, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 and 59 of the New Dunedin Hospital Report.

An updated version of the New Dunedin Hospital Report that reflects the current assessment as at June 2026 has been published on our website here <https://tewaihanga.govt.nz/our-work/reviews/dunedin-hospital-independent-review> .

However, it remains necessary to withhold some information under one or more of the following sections of the OIA where it is considered that the public interest in release does not outweigh the need to protect this information:

- 9(2)(b)(ii): to protect the commercial interests of the parties.
- s 9(2)(j) – in order not to prejudice or inhibit commercial activities including negotiations.
- s 9(2)(g)(i) – opinion expressed by officials on a free and frank basis which if released could adversely inhibit the work of officials in the future and impact the effective conduct of public affairs.

In making the decision to withhold this information the public interest considerations set out in section 9(1) of the OIA were referred to. I consider that the public interest is met through the information provided.

For part 2 of your request regarding the cost of the review process, there is no change to the original response which advised that the cost to produce the Report, was \$267,903.93 including GST. This information is also on our website here: <https://tewaihanga.govt.nz/our-work/reviews/dunedin-hospital-independent-review>.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and the enclosed documents may be published on the Commission's website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely



Andy Hagan
General Manager, Investment