

1 March 2022

[REDACTED]

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**Re: Official Information Act request – Use of contingency fund to build negative pressure rooms - ADHB Ref: 20211215-1122**

I refer to your Official Information Act request received dated 15 December 2021 requesting the following information:

**I request all original communications including briefings, reports, memos, aides memoirs, cabinet papers, data and texts regarding the following information:**

**All original communications in 2021 around the request from Auckland DHB to use contingency funding to build negative pressure rooms including any letters with the MOH outlining and discussing the proposal.**

**Reply 41619 (2021) has been answered**

**Portfolio: Health (Hon Andrew Little)**

**Question: Further to 38865(2021) what was the project that Auckland DHB sought to use the contingency for to deliver additional negative pressure rooms, how much was the contingency, and on what dates and how were health officials approached about that contingency ?**

**Reply: I am advised the project which had available contingency was Ward 51, the new Adult Rehabilitation and Integrated Stroke Unit at Auckland Hospital. There was \$6.1 million unspent from that project, which has since been returned to a central pool for redistribution to other approved capital projects.**

**[41619 \(2021\)](#)**

**Where information is withheld, I request you provide the title and date of the communication/document withheld, the reason for refusal and the grounds in support of that reason as required by section 19 (a) (i) and (ii) of the Official Information Act**

## **Response**

In 2021 there were two projects that we believe are within the scope of your request. One is the Auckland City Hospital Ward 51 Project noted in Minister Little's Reply 4169 and the other is a Starship Children's Hospital project to expand the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit.

### **1) Paediatric Intensive Care Unit Bed Expansion and Atrium Redevelopment.**

As part of the Auckland DHB Covid-19 response, PICU has had all four single rooms converted to negative pressure (previously only one was negative pressure). This is not part of the redevelopment, but provides illustrative context. Children rarely become critically ill with Covid-19, but nevertheless this will provide adequate PICU capacity for Covid.

Separately, as part of the PICU and atrium redevelopment, a scope variation was sought to make one of the new four bed PICU rooms a negative pressure room. This would bring the total of negative pressure rooms to eight and provide flexibility to manage multiple airborne infections and infections that do cause higher rates of severe illness in children (e.g. whooping cough, measles).

This scope variation was recommended to the Auckland District Health Board on 3 November 2021 by the Finance Risk and Assurance Committee.

The process is covered by the reports we release to you as Attachments 1, 2, 3 and 4.

- Attachment 1. FRAC Referral Report
- Attachment 2. 13.1 Capex Variation Cover (01 Oct 21)
- Attachment 3. 13.1.1 Capex Variation Request Negative Pressure Room PICU Final
- Attachment 4. 13.1.2 Capex Variation Request BFTF PBC re T1 Funds

## **2) Ward 51 Taiao Oro Adult Rehabilitation and Integrated Stroke Unit, Auckland City Hospital**

As noted in Minister Little's Reply 4169, Auckland DHB returned \$6.1m unspent from this project. Auckland DHB had sought to utilise this sum to deliver additional infection prevention capability and capacity via a scope change.

We are releasing a letter from Minister Little to Auckland DHB Chair Pat Snedden dated 5 March 2021 which conveyed the government's decisions on Ward 51 Scope Change. Content in the letter referring to matters not related to your request has been redacted. Please see Attachment 5 Redacted Letter from Minister Little to Chair Pat Snedden 05.03.21.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is 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 Auckland DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
**Chief Executive**

### **Encl.**

1. Attachment 1. FRAC Referral Report
2. Attachment 2. 13.1 Capex Variation Cover (01 Oct 21)
3. Attachment 3. 13.1.1 Capex Variation Request Negative Pressure Room PICU Final
4. Attachment 4. 13.1.2 Capex Variation Request BFTF PBC re T1 Fund
5. Attachment 5 Redacted Letter from Minister Little to Chair Pat Snedden 05.03.21.