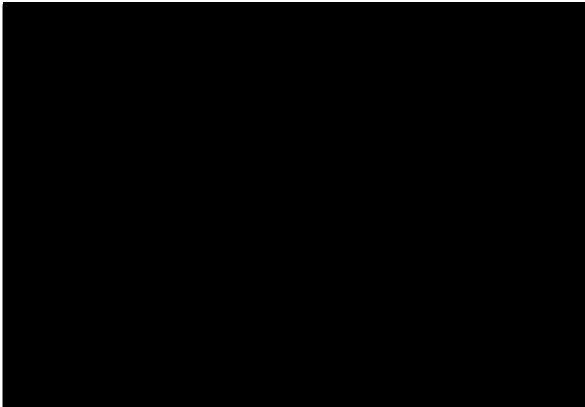


1 November 2019



Re: Official Information Act request – Debts incurred by ineligible/overseas patients

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 16 October 2019 requesting the following information.

I am writing to request the following information under the Official Information Act:

- 1. The total amount of debt incurred by the District Health Board in treating ineligible patients or those from overseas for the financial years of 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2018/2018, and 2018,2019.**

Financial Year (1 July- 30 June)	Total Invoiced
2015-2016	10,442,101.81
2016-2017	14,056,956.32
2017-2018	14,591,736.97
2018-2019	16,127,317.05

**We have provided the total yearly amount invoiced to ADHB non-residents for the last four financial years as prior to 2015, while the reports were available, they were not necessarily specific to Auckland DHB non residents.*

2. A breakdown of the number of patients which incurred these debts, (the totals as above) for the financial years of 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19.

Financial Year (1 July- 30 June)	Number of Auckland DHB non-residents invoiced
2015-2016	2600
2016-2017	2951
2017-2018	2707
2018-2019	2635

**We have provided the total yearly amount invoiced to ADHB non-residents for the last four financial years as prior to 2015, while the reports were available, they were not necessarily specific to Auckland DHB non-residents.*

Please note: Overseas government accounts such as CPS Tahiti, Government of Samoa, Tonga and Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia are included in the tally of Auckland DHB non-residents invoiced. Under these accounts they have non-resident invoices that are not billed under the specific NHIs.

Commercial accounts such as World Health Organisation, Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children, Pacific Health Development are included in the tally of Auckland DHB non-residents invoiced. Under these accounts they have non-resident invoices that are not billed under the specific NHIs.

3. Can the DHB then please also advise what happens to these debts incurred by ineligible patients? Are they struck out? Does the DHB cover the costs - how does this process work?

If they are unable to make payments based on the DHB payment guidelines, then the account is referred to a debt collection agency. The agency collects the unpaid debt on the DHB's behalf.

I trust this information answers your questions.

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 available at 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 faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive