

30 May 2018



Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act

Our Ref: 2018/0068

I refer to your official information request to the Prime Minister dated 20 April 2018, which was transferred to the State Services Commission for reply on 7 May 2018. You have asked:

Relating to the investigation into circumstances around former Waikato DHB boss Nigel Murray, what was:

- *The total cost of the Review (or best estimate)*
- *The total remuneration (including koha) of those people appointed to the Review (or best estimate)*
- *The anticipated cost of travel and accommodation relating to the Review (or best estimate)*
- *The number of people appointed to conduct the Review and names of these people*
- *The anticipated number of meetings of the Review (or best estimate)*
- *The level, nature and cost of support by officials the Review will receive (or best estimate)*
- *The anticipated length of time the Review will take (or best estimate)*

On 3 November 2017, the Minister of Health requested that the State Services Commissioner investigate the circumstances surrounding Dr Murray's expenditure.

On 10 November 2017, the State Services Commissioner announced the appointment of Mr John Ombler QSO to investigate allegations of wrongful expenditure of public money by former Waikato District Health Board Chief Executive.

The investigation was undertaken under section 11(4) of the State Sector Act 1988.

On 22 March 2018, the State Services Commissioner released the findings the investigation. The media statement and investigation report is publically available on the State Services Commission (SSC) website at the following link: <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/waikato-dhb-investigation-findings>

The report provides a description of the conduct of the inquiry interviews undertaken by the independent investigator, Mr Ombler. Paragraphs 50 to 63 on pages 10 and 11 specifically refer to the number of interviews undertaken on oath and appendix 4 outlines who these interviews were with.

A number of these interviews were held in Hamilton at the Head office of the Waikato District Health Board. The travel and accommodation cost of undertaking these interviews was \$2,383.52 for the three people involved. The report also outlines the date on which the inquiry was initiated and its cover indicates it was reported on 19 March 2018.

The total cost of the investigation was \$174,466.81. This cost includes the costs associated with the independent investigator and any external advice, including legal advice, that he relied on. The total cost of the independent investigator was \$59,888.77 (inclusive of disbursements) across the more than five months of work in which he was involved.

Support from the State Services Commission to inquiries undertaken by independent investigators is provided on an as required basis. As a result it is not possible to identify the number of full-time equivalent or individual staff involved in the work associated with the investigation into Dr Murray or the publication of the associated report.

The State Services Commission has already proactively released a wide range of information on its website associated with the Inquiry, consistent with the application of the Official Information Act 1982. This information is available at the following link: <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/waikato-dhb-investigation-finding>. In addition, the Waikato District Health Board has released considerable information on which the Inquiry relied, which can also be accessed from the same State Services Commission website at the link provided above.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ministerial.Services@ssc.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the State Services Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Short', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Geoff Short
Assistant Commissioner
State Services Commission