



17 August 2022

Polly Adams
fyi-request-20074-ce8af8d8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2021/22-1557

Dear Polly Adams

Official Information Act request relating to request for copy of the written briefings, advice and information provided by HTU to the incoming Health NZ Chief Executive

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request which was transferred from Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on 4 August 2022. You requested:

I would like to request a copy of the written briefings, advice and information provided by the DPMC's health reform transition unit to the incoming Health NZ Chief Executive, Margy Apa to support her when she took up the role. This should include background briefings and information she received from the transition unit before she formally began her role, through to 30 June 2022.

The process of inducting Fepulea'i Margie Apa as the Chief Executive of Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand was led by the entity itself, then a departmental agency in the Ministry of Health. I supported this process by walking through with Fepulea'i Margie the March 2021 Cabinet Paper titled *The Health and Disability System Review: Proposals for Reform* which outlines the architecture of the new health system operating model; and the relevant Budget 2021 bid templates that set out the budget for interim Health New Zealand. In doing so I provided some narrative on the process that was taken to develop these artefacts.

Through her substantive role at the time as the Chief Executive of Counties-Manukau District Health Board (DHB) Fepulea'i Margie had been involved in the reform process from early on. The Health Transition Unit engaged early and frequently with the sector which included regular attendance at the DHB Chief Executives' forum. Additionally, through her capacity at the time as the Lead for the DHB Chief Executives, she was also a member of the Senior Officials Group convened by the Health Transition Unit which meant that she had a rich understanding of the reform narrative and key objectives leading up to her appointment.

Given this context of her prior involvement, it was not necessary for the Health Transition Unit to hold a formal induction or supply a detailed briefing pack to Fepulea'i Margie. I instead took the opportunity to direct Fepulea'i Margie to the artefacts mentioned above that were core to the reform programme and as such were important for her knowledge to lead interim Health New Zealand, and ultimately Te Whatu Ora.

Both the Cabinet paper and the Budget 2021 materials are publicly available and can be accessed via the following links:

- <https://dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-06/cab-21-sub-0092-health-disability-system-review.pdf>
- <https://budget.govt.nz/information-release/2022/index.htm>

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. McKernan', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen McKernan
Director, Health and Disability Review Transition Unit