

24 January 2024

T Murray  
Via email: [fyi-request-25279-7a8507af@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-25279-7a8507af@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe T Murray

### **Request for information: Initial meeting with Associate Minister of Health (Pharmac)**

Thank you for your request dated 21 December 2023 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information. You requested:

*I would like to request the following information:*

- *The date, time and location of your initial meeting with the new Minister for your department;*
- *A list of attendees at this meeting*
- *The cost of any flights and accommodation for staff who reside outside of wellington to attend this meeting*
- *Any documentation provided at the meeting*
- *All notes (including handwritten notes) taken at the meeting by department staff;*
- *A copy of any emails sent by department attendees or all staff communications regarding the meeting with the new Minister.*

An initial meeting between Pharmac and the Associate Minister of Health (Pharmac) was held at Parliament at 4:45pm on 18 December 2023. Ordinarily we would partially transfer your request under section 14 of the Act, for information held by their Office, however, as you have made the same request to the Office of Hon David Seymour, we instead refer you to their response.

Below is the information held by Pharmac relevant to your request.

The initial meeting was attended by:

- Hon David Seymour, Associate Minister of Health (Pharmac)
- Dr Peter Bramley, Pharmac Acting Board Chair
- Dr Diana Sarfati, Director General of Health
- Andrew Ketels, ACT Party Chief of Staff

A total of \$596.57 were spent on flights and accommodation for the Pharmac Acting Board Chair. The costs were:

1. Flight from Nelson to Wellington - \$176.39
2. Accommodation - \$175.20
3. Flight from Wellington to Nelson - \$244.98

Pharmac has not identified any documents or meeting notes in scope of your request. However, you may be interested in the Briefing to the Incoming Minister which was prepared

to support the new ministers. A copy of this briefing is being prepared for proactive release in due course.

Attached to this response you will find a copy of all email communications that Pharmac holds regarding the meeting with the new Minister. Some information is withheld according to OIA section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals.

In making our decision, we have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding that information.

We trust that this information answers your queries. Please note, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about our response to your OIA, under section 28(3) of the OIA. Details of [how to make a complaint](#) are on the Ombudsman's website.

To make information more freely available, we publish selected OIA responses (excluding personal details) on our website. Please get in touch with us if you have any questions about this.

Nāku noa, nā



Oliver Whitehead  
Team Leader, Government Services