Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

6 October 2026

Grace Millar
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Tēnā koe Grace

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00207559

Thank you for your email on 27 August 2026, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

> *I would like to request the following:*
> *• The number of people in the Te Whatu Ora Data and Digital function that have been made redundant since Te Whatu Ora was formed.*
> *• The number of contractors employed within Data and Digital each year of Te Whatu Ora's existence.*
> *• The number of people who were made redundant who have worked again for Te Whatu Ora, either as employees or contractors.*

On 4 September, we extended the due date of your request to 22 October 2026.

Response

When Health NZ was established in 2022, no single group existed to undertake data and digital functions. A series of organisational changes led to the establishment of the current Digital Services group on 1 July 2025.

Your questions have therefore been answered on the basis of function and cannot be read as applying to any specific group or groups within the organisation.

For clarity, our answers to your individual questions are below.

> *• The number of people in the Te Whatu Ora Data and Digital function that have been made redundant since Te Whatu Ora was formed.*

Health NZ's employee payroll systems indicate that 292 staff members serving a data and/or digital function have been made redundant since Health NZ was formed.

> *• The number of contractors employed within Data and Digital each year of Te Whatu Ora's existence.*

Contractors are generally not engaged or paid through Health NZ's payroll systems and are instead recorded through financial systems as vendors. Given the organisational change and the way contractors are coded in those systems, identifying contractors by group or function, and compiling annual counts would require a substantial manual review of vendor records. This would involve diverting personnel from their core duties and impair their delivery.

Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

• The number of people who were made redundant who have worked again for Te Whatu Ora, either as employees or contractors.

Health NZ has identified 166 former employees across the organisation who were made redundant and subsequently returned to work for Health NZ as employees.

Health NZ is unable to identify former employees who may have subsequently returned as contractors. As above, to provide the information you have requested would require substantial manual review of vendor records. This would involve diverting personnel from their core duties and impair their delivery.

Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

For the information in this response refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, I have considered whether fixing a charge for the supply of the information or extending the timeframe for response would enable Health NZ to respond. I do not consider that either option would remove the impact that supplying the information would have on our other operations.

Please note:

- Employees may be made redundant in one district and rehired in another. The total provided records our best effort to match employee data using the baseline data gathered quarterly.
- Employees may be made redundant from one role and continue working in another - these employees are excluded from this total.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Sasha Wood

Sasha Wood
Group Manager Government Services
Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora