

16 October 2024

## Your requests for official information, reference: HNZ00060984 and HNZ00065027

Thank you for your emails on 15 and 16 August 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

### **HNZ00060984 – 15 August 2024**

*RNZ requests a statement that summarises the total costs of Connect24 to any and all parts of govt and taxpayers, plus documents that back this up.*

*Pls ensure each and every part of the costs is covered including travel by air, road etc, catering, venue hire and outfitting, speaker fees or gifts, and pls include a calculation of the total FTE employee hours spent at the event (number of attendees x number of hours not in their bau jobs x avg hourly rate (I would guess \$50 an hour would be very conservative?))*

*Pls provide a statement as to why this was a good use of taxpayer money, especially in light of the fact that the strategic directions discussed there are now, according to HNZ's statement to me today, on "reset".*

### **HNZ00065027 – 16 August 2024**

*The Minister gave a keynote speech to Te Whatu Ora's Connect24 conference at Sky stadium in March. 300 top HNZ leaders were at it.*

*Does the Minister know what the total cost to taxpayers of Connect24 was?*

I apologise for the delays in responding to these requests.

## Response

**Context:** Connect24 was a leadership meeting developed in collaboration with Te Aka Whai Ora (at the time). The intention of the meeting was to, following 18 months of change, bring newly formed Tier 3 and Tier 4 management and clinical leaders together. The purpose of the meeting was to align leadership to the Government's priorities for Health NZ, enhance cross functional communication and collaboration and support cross organisation working together to achieve those outcomes. It was held at this stage when most business units had made enough progress having made permanent appointments to Tier 3 leadership roles but ahead of formulating plans for the 24/25 year.

**Programme:** Attached is a copy of the programme for the event. Although Connect24 occurred in March 24, the content is still relevant despite the change in Health NZ financial position. Many of the sessions presented below are still relevant in the current period. Connect24 provided an opportunity for regional and local teams to have input into major developments through workshops and discussion forums and present their work to the wider Health NZ leadership. The following table summarises the content:

Sessions to Connect...	Examples of Content
<b>With strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iwi Māori Partnership Boards are established</li> <li>• Health Status Report was published</li> <li>• Horizon scanning has been undertaken on AI and has informed Health NZ initial approach</li> <li>• Infrastructure Investment Plan is due for Cabinet decision making before end of the year</li> <li>• Workforce Plan 24/25 delayed</li> </ul>
<b>With future direction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pacific Health</li> <li>• Primary Care</li> <li>• Improving Access to planned care anticipating National Health Targets</li> <li>• Health behaviour change to reduce risk of non-communicable disease</li> <li>• Transformation and productivity</li> </ul>
<b>With tools that were in development to help teams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility design and standardisation</li> <li>• Campus and service planning</li> <li>• National data platform enabling analytics</li> <li>• Clinically focused health analytics</li> <li>• Transparency of information for staff and the public</li> <li>• Operating models or how we work</li> </ul>
<b>With tools to support care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AI horizon scanning</li> <li>• Clinical Networks</li> <li>• Whanau voice</li> <li>• Commissioning for outcomes</li> <li>• Digital workspace</li> </ul>
<b>With enablers of outcomes and innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability capability maturity matrix</li> <li>• Acute flow (standards have been released)</li> <li>• Practical tools in public health to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi</li> <li>• Social investment</li> <li>• Slowing the progression of diabetes</li> <li>• National Health Targets</li> <li>• Innovation Funnel</li> <li>• Māori Health Pipeline</li> <li>• Social marketing to support engagement with whanau and communities</li> <li>• Pandemic emergency management</li> <li>• Digital modernisation</li> </ul>
<b>With regions – each region presented their priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Te Manawa Taki</li> <li>• Northern</li> <li>• Te Waipounamu</li> <li>• Central region</li> </ul>

**Costs:** Many national and regional teams that would normally have in person gatherings were asked to hold those meetings and have them at the same time as Connect24 to reduce the need for extra travel. Hence, the costs were not collected centrally, and Health NZ is unable to estimate the total cost of this event. Teams booked and paid for their travel against their local area operational budget or project cost codes.

We did not, at the time, operate a finance reporting system that is able to collate the cost of travel to this meeting. This is because costs would have been charged to services and/or projects and programme budgets that would have funded travel for other meetings. Part of the delay in responding was due to our assessment in trying to collate those costs in other ways.

The purpose of the Official Information Act is to provide access to official information held by the Government, to enable participation in law-making and promote the accountability of Ministers and officials. There is no requirement under the Act for agencies to create new information, compile information they do not hold, provide legal advice, respond to hypothetical questions, or provide or prove an opinion. Therefore, your request for a statement that summarises the total cost of Connect24 is refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

However, we can provide the following costs which were managed at a national level:

Costs	\$GST excl
Delaware North (Sky Stadium) Venue hire, catering & security (3-days with the 1 <sup>st</sup> day being for set up)	\$103,400.00
Interpreting costs over the 2-days 27 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> March	4107.50
<b>Printing:</b> Fujifilm - \$1021 GST exclusive. Bluestar – 27.82 GST exclusive.	1,048.82
Duplico Media (photography) - \$337.50 GST exclusive.	337.50
Net Promotions (bags) – \$434 GST exclusive	434.00
Speaker and gift fees	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$109,327.82</b>

Copies of invoices are attached as **Appendix 1**. You will note that some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of individuals. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals is not outweighed by the public interest in the release of this information.

It is the only time a meeting like this has taken place since Health New Zealand was established. In the current fiscal environment, no further Connect meetings are planned. The content is still relevant to current Health NZ plans, work programmes and priorities.

Please find attached the Event Briefing that provided the Minister of Health information about Connect24.

## How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at [h.nzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz](mailto:h.nzOIA@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](http://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

[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz)

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**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government