

3 February 2023

C162160

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 2 December 2022 to the Ministry of Health (MoH) requesting information about mental health funding provided through Budget 19.

The Wellbeing Budget 2019 announced \$1.9 billion investment into mental health wellbeing over four years. The package of initiatives reflects a whole-of-government approach to supporting New Zealanders' mental wellbeing. You can find more information about the package, including how much was appropriated to different Votes and initiatives, on the Treasury website at:

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/wellbeing-budget/wellbeing-budget-2019>.

As your request relates to cross-government funding, MoH has partially transferred your request to relevant agencies to provide their respective response, in accordance with section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

This response contains information relevant to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa (Corrections). Your request has been considered under the OIA.

Corrections previously wrote to you and extended the timeframe of our response under section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA.

In reviewing our response, please note that in accordance with Corrections' standard reporting conventions, figures are provided by financial year. The financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June, each year.

The parts of your request that Corrections can respond to are answered in turn below.

*How much of the Mental Health Funding provided through Budget 2019 of \$1.8 billion has yet to be spent or allocated nationally?*

Of the \$1.9 billion dollar investment in Budget 19, Corrections was allocated \$123.6 million for the Increasing Access to Mental Health and Addictions Support initiative, \$2.0 million for Enhancing Specialist Alcohol and Other Drugs Services and \$3.9 million capital funding.

The Budget 19 funding enabled Corrections to continue delivering a range of existing mental health services that would otherwise have stopped as they were pilot services, funded via the Justice Sector Fund. This included the Improving Mental Health (IMH) service for people with mild to moderate needs and the Wrap Around Whānau Support (WAW) service. The Budget 19 funding also enabled Corrections to expand and strengthen their mental health and addiction services.

For the 2019/20 to 2021/22 financial years combined, Corrections spent a total of \$62.2 million against a budget of \$83.7 million for Increasing Access to Mental Health and Addictions Support and Enhancing Specialist Alcohol and other Drugs Services.

In the 2022/23, as per Vote Corrections, there is an allocation of \$41.9 million annual budget for the two initiatives of which \$13.6 million was spent in the first five months of the financial year.

*How much of this funding has been appropriated and in what fiscal year/s?*

Corrections has determined that this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information requested is publicly available.

We draw your attention to Cabinet's "Minute of Decision – 2019 Budget Package: Vote Corrections" which is available via Treasury [here](#).

The breakdown of the Justice Sector Budget 19 appropriations is publicly available [here](#).

*How much of this funding by year has been committed?*

Of the \$125.6 million, \$75.8 million has been spent up until 30 November 2022 and a further \$14.0 million committed in the 2022/23 financial year.

Please note that we are only partway through the financial year and there are procurement processes occurring as well as ongoing recruitment. This means that additional funding will be committed and spent by 30 June 2023.

*4. Please provide information on any carry forwards and in what fiscal year/s?*

The October Baseline Update (OBU) in 2020 approved the In Principle Expense Transfers, which allowed for \$2.8 million funding to be carried forward from 2019/20 to future years. Of that, \$0.8 million was carried forward to 2020/21 and \$2.0 million to 2021/22.

*Please could you provide a definition for each of the following terms 'allocated', 'committed', 'spent', 'underspend'".*

For the purposes of this response, the definitions applied to respond to the questions above are as follows:

- *Allocated:* Budget 19 allocation to Vote Corrections.

- *Committed*: Historically, what has been spent and committed in contracts for future spend (i.e. signed in agreement with both internal staff and external parties).
- *Spent*: what has been goods receipted, paid via payroll and accruals for goods or services received.
- *Underspend*: funding spent is less than the allocation budget (as per Vote Corrections).

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Dr Juanita Ryan  
Deputy Chief Executive Health