

09 May 2019

Thank you for your email dated 23 April 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding Regional Public Health. In your request you asked:

“Please advise me who is in charge of regional public health, who it is accountable to, how its accountability works and provide me with a copy of its current plan, budget and last three performance reports (if there has been any).”

The information pertaining to your request is below.

Question 1:

“Who is in charge of regional public health?”

Regional Public Health (RPH) is led by Service Manager, Peter Gush, and Clinical Head of Department, Dr Stephen Palmer.

Question 2:

“Who it is accountable to?”

RPH is one of 12 District Health Board owned public health units (PHUs). As a business unit of the Hutt Valley District Health Board (HVDHB) day to day accountability is to the Chief Executive of HVDHB. From a governance perspective and as a sub-regional service working with communities across the greater Wellington region, RPH is accountable to the Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa District Health Boards.

Question 3:

“How its accountability works.”

PHUs focus on environmental health, communicable disease control, tobacco control, health promotion programmes and influencing organisations outside the health sector where decisions can impact on the health and wellbeing of the community. Many of these services include a regulatory component performed by statutory officers appointed under various statutes, though principally under the Health Act 1956.

Most statutory officers are designated by the Director-General of Health under the Health Act 1956. These officers – medical officers of health and health protection officers – are accountable to, and subject to direction from, the Director-General of Health.

Accountability also rests for delivery of the Annual Plan with the DHB’s and funders of services.

Question 4:

“Provide a copy of its [RPH] current plan”

RPH 2018-2019 Annual Plan is available on its website.

<http://www.rph.org.nz/about-us/our-publications/2018-19rphannualplan-public.pdf>

Question 5:

“Provide a copy of the RPH budget.”

A copy of RPH’s budget for 2018/19 is attached.

Question 6:

“Provide RPH last three performance reports (if there has been any).”

Attached are the Annual reports to the Ministry of Health for RPH’s contracted Ministry services for the last three financial years.