



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Dr Shane Reti	Portfolio	Science, Innovation and Technology
Title of Cabinet paper	Transitioning health research funding from the Health Research Council to Research Funding New Zealand	Date to be published	9 April 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
November 2025	Transitioning Health Research Funding from the Health Research Council to Research Funding New Zealand	Offices of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, and of the Minister of Health
12 November 2025	Transitioning Health Research Funding from the Health Research Council to Research Funding New Zealand ECO-25-MIN-0185 Minute	Cabinet Office
5 November 2025	Future of Health Research Funding: Decision Making and Allocation RIS	MBIE and MOH
5 November 2025	RIS Annex 2 - Cost Recovery for a Fast-track Research Ethics Review Process	MBIE and MOH
3 December 2025	RIS Quality Assurance Feedback Form and QA Criteria	MBIE and MOH
14 August 2025 – 5 November 2025	Briefings on the Future of Health Research Funding	MBIE and MOH

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified and that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld under the grounds of commercial information, confidential advice to Government, and confidential commercial information (trade secret).

Annex Five: HRC report on staff and budgets

HRC are reviewing activities in light of the recent 10% reduction to operational funding. Having managed carefully within the unchanged appropriation since 2020, we now face the challenge of doing more with less. Our workforce is not solely dedicated to the individual tasks in the HRC Act. All of our staff are expected to perform in multiple areas of the business. Accordingly, the FTE is allocated to functional directorates.

Privacy of natural persons

Committees

These fall into three categories: Statutory, Assessing and Regulatory and are all recorded separately. The costs attributed to these are the direct costs only. They include meeting fees, any travel and accommodation (negligible as we rarely have face-to-face meetings), meeting costs such as venue, meals, etc and any other costs e.g. printing that may be incurred and claimed by the members.

Chief Executive and Executive Leadership Team

This directorate includes employment related costs for CE, ELT and EA to the CE. Any organisation-wide expenditure is also coded to this cost centre and includes staff wellbeing (EAP, flu vaccines, etc), staff training, outsourced HR function, consulting and legal expenses.

Investments and Investment Processes

These two divisions form the Investments directorate.

The Investments directorate is responsible for the HRC's annual investment in research and researcher career development across a variety of contestable investigator-initiated mechanisms (General, Health Delivery) and targeted mechanisms (e.g. Partnerships, International).

It is responsible for managing applications, assessment, and contract management processes for the range of investments in research and researcher career development.

Integrity, Regulatory and SCOTT

Also part of the Investments directorate, this cost centre contains the direct costs associated with maintaining the regulatory committees. These include Ethics, SCOTT, GTAC and DMCC. The direct costs relate primarily to the committee costs but also include employee costs for 1.3 FTE.

Strategy and Policy

The Strategy & Policy team are responsible for the development and implementation of strategy and policy for health research at a national and organisational level. Key examples of this include collaborating with the Ministry of Health and MBIE on a nationwide consultation process to develop the NZ Health Research Strategy 2017-2027, and leading consultation and development of the NZ Health Research Prioritisation Framework.

The team work closely with the health and research sectors. This includes participating in consultations and drafting submissions, participating on working and steering groups for the Health Research Strategy and reporting to Ministers on implementation progress.

Additionally, it includes meeting with the health delivery sector to promote awareness and access to the new Health Delivery Research investment fund; working with the Ministry of Health on a number of joint research partnerships, including a recent initiative to strengthen the clinical trials environment; and attending regular reporting and accountability meetings with the Ministry of Health and MBIE.

The communications team also sit in this directorate and are responsible for all publications, both digital and print as well as the HRC website and regular news updates.

Finance

The finance function at the HRC is small and efficient with 1 management accountant and 0.3 FTE for accounts payable in addition to the CFO. The payroll function is outsourced and costed to this division. All financial activity is handled within this division and costs associated with audit, internal audit, insurance and depreciation are coded here.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services is the division responsible for providing whatever is required for each division to deliver on its remit. This includes IT, admin support, contract administration, facilities management and risk management. Accordingly, costs borne by this division include IT infrastructure, office administration and occupancy in addition to 8.7 FTE including 3 IT and 3.7 admin.

Commercial Information

