



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 1 SEP 2016

Dear

On 11 August 2016, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Details of all expenditure by your department for 2015/16 on:*
 - *Staff/employee/team retreats and functions.*
 - *Parties.*
 - *Irregular events.*
- *Broken down by amount spent on travel, accommodation, food, items, venue hire, transport, any gifts, refreshments, decorations, entertainment etc. Date expenditure occurred and what it was for.*

As you are aware, the Ministry reports on the costs of catering, travel, conferences and seminars, staff retreats, staff training, planning and team building exercises in response to the standard pre-hearing questions for the Social Services Committee Annual Review of the Ministry.

I am unable to provide a breakdown of the costs you have requested further to what is available in the Annual Review as this information is not centrally recorded in this way. The full breakdown of the expenditure on individual events is found on the individual invoice received. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review in excess of 4,000 transactions. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful in providing a breakdown of expenditure information. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Rachel Sutherland
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services