



- 3 MAR 2017

On 3 February 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information about pure wool floor coverings, synthetic floor coverings and insulation used in the Ministry of Social Development's facilities and properties.

You will be familiar with the Ministry's work, and the breadth of services it provides to over a million New Zealanders. The Ministry employs almost 10,000 staff who work at more than 290 locations in New Zealand.

For clarity, each of your questions are addressed in turn.

- *Since 1 January 2011, how many square metres of pure wool floor coverings from animals (or if another natural fibre please specify) have been installed in facilities or properties under your direct control?*

The Ministry has not purchased any pure wool floor coverings from 1 January 2011 to date.

- *Since 1 January 2011, how many square metres of synthetic floor coverings have been installed in facilities or properties under your direct control?*

The Ministry has purchased 38,697 square metres of carpet tile floor coverings for its commercial portfolio since 1 November 2011 to date.

Separately, the Ministry's new National Office premise (the 'Aurora Centre') was carpeted in 2016. The net-lettable area of the building is 24,564 square metres. The carpet was provided as part of the base building contract and the Ministry does not have a breakdown of the carpeted area, and as such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

However, the Ministry did install additional carpet in some areas of National Office, totalling less than 1,000 square metres.

The Ministry owns residences and family homes and for these properties synthetic carpet is installed. The Ministry uses non-wool floor covering in its secure facilities and family homes to meet the complex needs of the premises; this includes being waterproof, fireproof, odour resistant, solvent resistant and non-zippering. The total amount of synthetic floor covering purchased for residences and family homes since 1 November 2011 to date is 11,672.12 square metres.

In some instances, the Ministry leases commercial premises with carpet already installed. The Ministry does not document the areas that have been carpeted by others, as such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

- *What is your policy of specifying pure wool floor coverings (if any)?*

The Ministry's purchases of carpet are under supply contracts that have been awarded via a tender process. When tendered, the Ministry specifies the following criteria:

- Non-branded Carpet tile.
- Cut or loop pile carpet tile.
- Solution dyed carpet tile preferred.
- Range of designs and colours that are compatible with the Ministry's existing range.
- Long term availability of the selected carpet tile.
- Durable carpet tile with a long life warranty.
- Carpet tile that can be recycled at the end of its life.
- *Since 1 January 2011, how many square metres (and/or bales) of insulation containing pure or recycled wool from animals have been installed in facilities or properties under your direct control?*
- *Since 1 January 2011, how many square metres (and/or bales) of insulation containing no pure or recycled wool (ie 100% glass wool) have been installed in facilities or properties under your direct control?*

The Ministry's commercial portfolio premises are leased and insulation does not form part of the leases. In some situations, sound insulation is installed in partition walls. The Ministry does not specify a particular type of insulation or record the volumes or costs of any insulation installed.

Insulation is installed in the Ministry's family homes when they are refurbished. The contracts for the refurbishments specify insulation performance. The insulation is then provided as part of the whole refurbishment. As such, your request for square metres of insulation is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response regarding floor coverings and insulation with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Merv Dacre  
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