



15 FEB 2018



Dear 

On 16 January 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *What is the current count of permanent ICT staff (resources who are on the rolls of ministry whether they are employed part time or full time) vs contract ICT staff (resources headcount employed as independent contractor or through suppliers and not on Ministries roll).*
- *As on date, what is the count of contract ICT resources who have had extensions of their contract and remained working for the ministry for 18 or more months.*
- *As on date, what is the count of contract ICT resources who have had extension/s of their contract and remained working for the ministry beyond 60 or more months.*

As at 19 January 2018, the Ministry employed 401 internal IT staff, including full and part time staff and those on temporary employment agreements. This figure includes ICT roles and non-ICT roles, such as administrative staff and managers.

In addition, 156 external contractors were employed. Of these external contractors, 77 had their contracts extended for 18 months or more, including eight contractors who have continued to work for the Ministry for 60 months or more.

The Ministry is constantly monitoring contractor levels and is currently endeavouring to increase the proportion of ICT staff who are internal. However, there are circumstances in which it is more cost effective for the Ministry to contract with external firms to provide specific ICT solutions.

Short term contacts provide flexibility in cover for staff movements, allowing business as usual activities to continue uninterrupted through expected and unexpected staff absences. For large scale projects the Ministry supplements its workforce with contractors, ensuring that the additional temporary workload required by these projects does not impact business as usual.

Those contractors who are engaged for extended periods of time offer specific specialised expertise, without which the operation of the Ministry would be severely impacted. In the interest of continued support of the Ministry knowledge base, several contractors were recently converted to permanent roles.

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 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 regarding the number of permanent and contracted ICT staff currently employed by the Ministry, 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



Stephen Crombie

**Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Solutions**