



14 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 30 June 2023 you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*This is a request for official information under the Official Information Act 1982 relating to your department's yearly expenditure on flowers and bottled water.*

*We request the following information:*

- *Total expenditure on bottled water in 2022: Please provide the total amount spent on bottled water, including the cost of procurement, delivery and any other associated expense.*
- *Total expenditure on flowers in 2022: Please provide the total amount spent on flowers, including any cost related to procurement, arrangements and maintenance.*

*Similarly, please provide:*

- *Total expenditure on bottled water from January 2023 up to and including June 2023.*
- *Total expenditure on flowers from January 2023 up to and including June 2023.*

*If possible, I would appreciate a breakdown of the aforementioned expenditures by specific projects, programs, or categories within your department. This breakdown will aid in comprehending the context of these expenses and enable a more comprehensive analysis.*

The Ministry currently has around 9,000 staff across 150 sites throughout the country.

### **Total expenditure on bottled water**

The Ministry does not provide bottled water for staff. Most of the Ministry's offices around the country have water coolers. The Ministry has interpreted

your request to include water coolers. The total amount spent from January 2022 to 30 June 2023 was \$37,836.00. These costs are associated with the refilling and maintenance of water coolers.

<b>January 2022 – December 2022</b>	<b>January 2023 – June 2023</b>	<b>Total spend on bottled water</b>
\$25,231	\$12,606	<b>\$37,837</b>

### **Total expenditure on flowers**

The total amount spent on flowers from January 2022 to 30 June 2023 was \$60,884.00. This amount may also include the cost of delivery where applicable.

<b>January 2022 – December 2022</b>	<b>January 2023 – June 2023</b>	<b>Total spend on flowers</b>
\$39,946	\$20,938	<b>\$60,884</b>

The Ministry can provide flowers, up to a maximum of \$75, for an employee who has experienced a significant event, such as the birth of a child, wedding, hospitalisation, death of a close relative, or where the employee's individual achievements have been officially recognised.

The majority of the spend on flowers over the period in question is related to bereavement.

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 and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry'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 spending on bottled water and flowers, 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.

Ngā mihi nui



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