



12 January 2023

Tēnā koe

On 29 November 2022 you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Does the Ministry of Social Development have an internal communications team?*
- *How many staff members are employed to do 'internal communications'?*
- *What is lowest, highest, and median salary of these staff members?*

The Ministry does not have a specific team solely responsible for internal communications. Instead, there are a small number of staff within the wider area, whose roles are dedicated to serving internal communications functions.

Other staff in the wider communications teams have some responsibilities in the internal communications space, however, we are responding to your request in terms of the roles whose sole duties include internal communications.

Currently, there are four roles at the Ministry dedicated to internal communications. Two of these roles are awaiting the start date of staff members, both of which are scheduled for early 2023.

Due to the small number of staff members who are employed in this area, providing the lowest, highest and median salary information to you would make the salaries of these staff members identifiable. As such, your request for this information is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

However, in the spirit of being helpful I am providing you with the minimum starting salary in the lowest salary band and the maximum salary in the highest salary band across these internal communications roles, to present you with the salary range of this group of staff:

Minimum	Maximum
\$71,943	\$150,022

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 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.

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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Felicity Drader
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