



13 March 2023

Tēnā koe

On 14 February 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. How much did MSD spend on the provision of dairy milk to staff in 2022? Please include information about provision of milk: --In staff kitchens --As part of any other catering services*
- 2. How much did MSD spend on the provision of non-dairy milk (soy, oat, coconut, almond, rice, or other) to staff in 2022? Please include information about provision of milk: --In staff kitchens --As part of any other catering services*
- 3. Please also summarise communications or information relating to decision making about ongoing provision of dairy milk and non-dairy milks, relating to environmental impact and staff demand in particular.*

For the sake of clarity, I will now respond to your questions in turn.

- 1. How much did MSD spend on the provision of dairy milk to staff in 2022? Please include information about provision of milk: --In staff kitchens --As part of any other catering services*

Table One below outlines the amount of money the Ministry spent on dairy milk, per month in the calendar year for 2022.

Please note, this table only includes data for the amount spent on dairy milk for the Ministry's medium to large sized sites, as milk for these locations is ordered through our supplier Office Max. Medium to large sized sites are those who order 18+ litres of milk per week.

Milk provided at smaller Ministry sites is not ordered through Office Max and is instead purchased on an as-need basis from localised suppliers. As such, this information is not centrally recorded, and substantial manual collation would be required to provide you with this information. I am refusing your

request under section 18(f) of the 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.

Further, the provision of the milk to either staff kitchens or as part of catering services is not captured by the Ministry.

As such, I am refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as this information is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

Table One: Amount of money the Ministry spent through Office Max to purchase dairy milk for staff use at medium to large sized Ministry sites, by month, for calendar year 2022.

Month, 2022	Gross spend	Nett spend
January	\$16,161.42	\$18,585.73
February	\$15,821.37	\$18,194.58
March	\$15,273.95	\$17,565.05
April	\$16,861.43	\$19,390.77
May	\$15,347.35	\$17,649.48
June	\$20,488.99	\$23,562.47
July	\$20,883.90	\$24,016.50
August	\$23,277.75	\$26,769.46
September	\$26,516.13	\$30,493.66
October	\$24,049.08	\$27,656.53
November	\$24,682.16	\$28,384.53
December	\$25,998.87	\$29,898.77
Total	\$245,362.40	\$282,167.53

2. *How much did MSD spend on the provision of non-dairy milk (soy, oat, coconut, almond, rice, or other) to staff in 2022? Please include information about provision of milk: --In staff kitchens --As part of any other catering services*

Non-dairy milk is not purchased through Office Max for provision at medium to large sized Ministry sites.

If non-dairy milk is purchased on an as-need basis from localised suppliers at smaller sites, this information is not centrally recorded. In order to provide you with this information, substantial manual collation would be required. As such, I am refusing your request under section 18(f) of the 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.

Further, the provision of non-dairy milk to either staff kitchens or as part of catering services is not captured by the Ministry.

As such, I am refusing this request under section 18(g) of the Act as this information is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

3. *Please also summarise communications or information relating to decision making about ongoing provision of dairy milk and non-dairy milks, relating to environmental impact and staff demand in particular.*

No communications or information relating to decision making about ongoing provision of dairy milk and non-dairy milk, relating to environmental impact and staff demand, could be located.

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as these documents do not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate them, cannot be found.

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 regarding spending and provision of milk to staff at 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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trudi Watson', with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Trudi Watson

**Manager
Financial Operations**