



22 May 2023

Tēnā koe

On 24 April 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many in-house graphic designers does your organisation employ?*
- *What is the budget for in-house/employed graphic designers?*
- *How much has been spent on contracting external graphic designers?*
- *If external contractors have been used, why did your organisation not use your employed/in-house graphic designers?*
- *If employed/in-house or external contractors have been used to design a report in the last 12 months, was the report made public?*
- *If not, why not?*

For clarity, I will respond to each part of your request in turn.

- *How many in-house graphic designers does your organisation employ?*

Three graphic designers are employed through our Corporate Communications team to support corporate and service delivery projects across the Ministry.

- *What is the budget for in-house/employed graphic designers?*

There is no specific budget for employing in-house graphic designers. There are three salaried graphic designers in our Corporate Communications team supporting corporate and service delivery projects across the Ministry. Due to the small number of staff members who are employed in this area, providing the total budgeted cost 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 roles and their respective salary bands which are detailed in this table:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Salary Band</b>
Designer	\$62,660 - \$69,622 - \$76,585
Senior Designer	\$83,011 - \$92,235 - \$101,458
Lead Advisor Design and Production	\$100,014 - \$125,018 - \$150,022

- *If external contractors have been used, why did your organisation not use your employed/in-house graphic designers?*

One external graphic designer was contracted into our Corporate Communications team to provide cover for a staff member who is on an extended period of leave.

Some visual design services have been provided by three consultants as part of agreements with Ministry strategic partners providing consultancy services for Te Pae Tawhiti – Our Future Direction.

- *How much has been spent on contracting external graphic designers?*

As there is only one external graphic designer and three consultants who were contracted in this area, providing the exact amount of remuneration information would impact their privacy. 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.

- *If employed/in-house or external contractors have been used to design a report in the last 12 months, was the report made public?*
- *If not, why not?*

The Ministry's Annual Report 2021 - 2022, which involved some external design work, is available to the public. The Ministry's Annual Reports can be found using the following Ministry of Social Development website link: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/corporate/annual-report/2021-2022/index.html>

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. 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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding information about graphic designers 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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shalleen Hern', is positioned above the printed name.

Shalleen Hern  
**General Manager**  
**Communications and Engagement**