



22 May 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 3 May 2024, requesting information about individual contractors and consultants engaged by the Ministry in the period 1 January 2019 to 4 May 2024.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

In order to provide you with this information, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it requires substantial collation. 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 requests 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.

The Ministry submits evidence to Select Committees as part of Parliament's financial scrutiny processes, including the Annual Review. Parliament's Annual Review process looks at the Ministry's performance in the previous financial year, i.e. year ending 30 June, and scrutinises and reports on the outcomes achieved through funding it administers. This process is initiated by the Ministry's presentation of its Annual Report.

You will find the Ministry's Annual Review submissions for the financial years 2017/18 through to 2022/23, on the Parliament website. Each year's submission provides information on the current year under review, compared to the previous five financial years.

You can find the latest submission for the 2022/23 financial year at the following link: www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/54SCSSC_EVI_b9ae0553-7cfa-4166-4a99-08dbfb701e36_SSC555/73b1dabf5be7391633b0cebc1ca4e31eef4b1efb.

For ease of reference, I suggest looking at question 68 on page 63.

I also recommending looking at Appendix 9 of the Annual Review providing further breakdown of contractors and consultants. Appendix 9 can be found at the following link: www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/54SCSSC_EVI_b9ae0553-7cfa-4166-4a99-08dbfb701e36_SSC553/dac493d3ddb4fb57042dbb31968a12ec956c7f1d.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request regarding contractors and consultants, 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 'Magnus', is positioned above the typed name.

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services