

24 May 2024

s9(2)(a)

Mālō 'e Ie lei s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA062-2023/24)

On 24 April 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to the Ministry's spend on contractors and consultants. I have outlined your specific requests and my response below.

I request... your organisation's total spend on contractors and consultants from 1 January 2004 – present, broken down by month (including April 2024 if possible). Please further break down that spend by business group (or equivalent organisational unit), with all figures provided in a spreadsheet in the following format...

I am primarily interested in data from 1 January 2020 onwards. If figures from earlier years are difficult to compile and require more time to do so, please prioritise figures from more recent years. If necessary, I am OK with receiving earlier data in a separate tranche response.

On 26 April 2024, you clarified your request with us for the following:

I'd like to refine it to... your organisation's total spend on contractors and consultants from 1 January 2018 – present, broken down by quarter (including Q1 2024). I hope this information will already be compiled due to the Public Service Commission's regular reporting of these figures since 2018, as mentioned [here](#). Please further break down that spend by business group (or equivalent organisational unit)...

The Ministry does not hold information on total spend on contractors and consultants in the specified format. To collate and format the information requested, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate additional time and resources. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA, as it would require substantial collation or research. We prioritise the effective and efficient administration of the public service in the public interest.

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

To find the latest submission for the 2022/23 financial year, please refer to the following link: www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/54SCSSC_EVI_d39e388d-84f0-4457-db7c-08dc108f2c0f_SSC552/1ea763b7b4d50053e4d30bc466fab15ebbba5720

For ease of reference, go to question 68 on page 59.

Regarding your request for current information on the Ministry's spend on contractors and consultants, note that the Public Service Commission Te Kawa Mataaho (PSC) publishes quarterly information on this expenditure. I can confirm that the information for quarter three of the 2023/24 financial year will soon be published by PSC. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information will soon be publicly available.

You can find the most recent figures for contractor and consultant spend for the 2023/24 financial year (to 31 December 2023) at the following link:

www.publicservice.govt.nz/research-and-data/workforce-data-public-sector-composition/workforce-data-workforce-size#:~:text=There%20were%2065%2C699%20full-time,indicative%20of%20year-end%20results

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation. Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: ويا_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Mālō 'aupito



Danilo Coelho de Almeida

Deputy Secretary
Corporate Services