



26 April 2019



Reference: OIA-2018/19-0435

Dear 

**Official Information Act request relating to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's furniture expenditure for past five years**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 19 February 2019. You requested:

*"...-How much has the department spent in the last five years (broken down by year) on buying new furniture and office supplies for its offices around New Zealand?  
-Please provide any extra detail available on why the purchases were required i.e. office renovation or relocation.  
-How much has the department spent on getting rid of furniture i.e. dump or storage fees, in the last five years (broken down by year).  
Any extra detail on why certain items were procured or justification for the purchases or removal of items is appreciated...."*

Below is the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC's) furniture expenses over the past five financial years. This is broken down by fixed asset purchases, as well as minor capital expenses, where the purchase of furniture occurred within the operational budgets of the organisation (where the cost of each item of furniture was below \$2,000).

We note that DPMC has taken on several new functions in recent years, which has resulted in an increase in staff of approximately 100 FTE from June 2014 to June 2018. This has required the set up of new workspaces for staff, providing furniture such as sit-to-stand desks, chairs, desk partitions, mobile pedestals, meeting room tables and chairs.

These new functions include the Greater Christchurch Group, which includes activity from the former Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA), and the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM). We have also increased the capacity of the National Security Group.

The purchase of new furniture and office equipment, which is reflected in the table below.

Financial year	Purchase of furniture and office supplies (\$)	Minor Capital – Furniture (\$)	Total (\$)	Reason for purchase
13/14	-	2,334	<b>2,334</b>	Purchases of furniture for general use.
14/15	58,527	20,741	<b>79,268</b>	Purchases of furniture mainly related to installation of offices for the move of the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management into DPMC
15/16	126,928	10,134	<b>137,063</b>	Purchases of furniture mainly for the initial set up of the Greater Christchurch Group in Christchurch and Wellington (transition of the functions from CERA) and also for additional furniture for MCDEM, the National Security Group, Office of the Chief Executive, and the Policy Advisory Group.
16/17	36,817	11,025	<b>47,842</b>	Purchase of furniture for refurbishment of offices of the National Security Group
17/18	10,709	7,631	<b>18,340</b>	Purchase of furniture for refurbishment of offices of the National Security Group and MCDEM.

DPMC does not keep a separate record of dump or storage costs for furniture, and no such costs were identified when searching through the operational costs when determining the minor capital purchases for furniture. However, as most of the furniture purchases above relate to the furnishing of newly established offices, it is unlikely that dumping or storage costs would have been incurred in these instances.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Finally, for your information, this letter will be published on the DPMC's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward  
**Executive Director, Strategy Governance and Engagement**