



8 March 2022



Ref: OIA-2021/22-1007

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to the number and cost of responding to OIA requests

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) request received on 22 February 2022. You requested:

...the number of Official Information Act requests received by DPMC in the past five years.

Can this please be broken down into the numbers of requests made by members of the media and by members of the public.

I would also like to know how many of these requests were approved - I don't need the reasons they were rejected.

Can I also please be given the number of employees who are employed to respond solely to Official Information Act requests and their combined salaries - I don't need their individual salaries.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) reports the number of OIA requests received by the department, as well as the number of employees that respond to requests, as part of its Select Committee Annual Review. The 2020/21 Annual Review was submitted to the Governance and Administration Committee for its hearing on 16 February 2022 and can be found on the Parliament website:

parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCGA_EVI_116496_GA20956/c9f1b748eb0455204ffce5c31d948dbe6eeab76

Accordingly, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available.

It is worth noting that, while DPMC has a Ministerial Services team that supports DPMC's Ministers, this team does more than prepares responses to requests made under the OIA. The Ministerial Services team also responds to Privacy Act requests, drafts responses to departmental correspondence and provides administrative support to Ministers' Offices to respond to Ministerial OIAs, ministerial correspondence, coordination of draft responses to Written Parliamentary Questions and manages the proactive release of Cabinet material. The total salary of the Ministerial Services team does not provide an accurate reflection of the cost of responding to OIA requests, as no member of the team works solely on responding to these requests.

DPMC started recording media requests in April 2018. Between April 2018 and February 2022, there have been 283 OIA requests received by DPMC from members of the media. This is 18% of the departmental requests responded to by DPMC during this period.

DPMC does not categorise Official Information Act responses by whether the requested information was released, withheld, or refused. Many requests are complex, and responses will often be a mixture of providing information, directing the requester to publicly available information, providing explanatory comments and refusing parts of the request. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held by DPMC and there is no obligation for an agency to create information to respond to an OIA request.

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

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet'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