

21 March 2014

Andrew Crow  
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Dear Mr Crow

**Official Information Act 1982 Request: Cost of contractors in 2013**

We are in receipt of your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 2 March 2014 asking for the following information:

- *The total cost of using contractors from January 2013 to December 2013*

The information for the 2013 calendar year cannot be made available without substantial collation or research and therefore your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA.

As part of the annual Select Committee Financial Review process, the Ministry provides both the number of contracts over \$10,000 and the total cost by financial year. This figure includes the engagement of consultants. The following was provided to the Select Committee for the 2012/13 financial year:

Financial year	Number of contracts over \$10,000	Cost (\$m)	Percentage of total Ministry spend
2012/13	653	42.209	7.46%

The number of contractors and consultants and the total cost for the 2013/14 financial year will be available when the Ministry presents the 2013/14 results to the Select Committee. This is likely to be in October 2014.

The level of contractor and consultancy expenditure reflects the significant amount of business transformation activity underway and the need for the Ministry to upgrade its infrastructure.

You have the right, under s28 of the OIA, to seek a review by the Office of the Ombudsmen about the decision to refuse parts of year request.

I trust this information on contractor costs is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Audrey Sonerson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Audrey Sonerson  
Deputy Secretary Organisational Development and Support