



24 August 2021

John Luke
fyi-request-16224-ac96d6bc@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2021/22-0053

Dear John Luke

Official Information Act request relating to current working groups and costs

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 27 July 2021. You requested:

“Can you please provide me with an updates on the list of current working groups and it’s cost?”

I note that the article you refer to in your request is from 2018 and the cost quoted was collated by the National Party using information collected from across government in responses to multiple written parliamentary questions and Official Information Act requests from many different Minister’s and agencies, and then averaged out. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) does not maintain a list of all working groups and the expenditure on these. Therefore, I am refusing your request pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

While in these circumstances we would normally transfer your request to other relevant agencies, DPMC does not know which working groups are the responsibility of which government agencies. If you still wish to know the number and cost of government working groups, I suggest you contact agencies separately for this information.

For information on established inter-agency working groups activated by DPMC, please see the following link: dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security-and-intelligence/new-zealands-national-security-system-during-a-crisis/governance-during-crisis/working-groups-and-specialist-groups

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

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s website.

Yours sincerely

Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement