

19 December 2022

Ms Erika Whittome

Tēnā koe Ms Whittome

Thank you for your email of 13 September 2022 via the FYI site to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *What number of staff did you terminate or place on any form of “extended leave” due to your vaccination mandates? Please also share the total headcount as of 15 Nov 2021 and today.*

Please accept our apologies for the time it has taken to respond.

Oranga Tamariki implemented the COVID-19 government vaccination mandates and its own COVID-19 Policy which included vaccination requirements. In all, vaccine requirements were in place between 15 November 2021 and 24 August 2022, noting that the provisions did not apply to all staff for the entire period to accommodate the different settings in which our staff work. Over that period, 17 employees were terminated for non-compliance with the vaccination mandates / requirements (refusal to be vaccinated).

Oranga Tamariki does not hold information pertaining to whether Oranga Tamariki placed staff on any form of “extended leave” due to vaccination mandates / requirements. As such, your request is partially refused under section 18(e) of the Act on the ground that the requested information does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found. However, if staff were unable to be vaccinated, and could not work from home it is likely that they were placed on leave while the vaccination requirements remained in place.

As at 30 November 2021 the total headcount of permanent and fixed term staff at Oranga Tamariki was 5,051. As at 30 November 2022 the headcount for staff at Oranga Tamariki is 4729.

If you wish to discuss this response further with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Elizabeth Blanchfield
General Manager People and Leadership, People Culture and Enabling Services