

7 June 2023

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Our ref: OIA 104371

Tēnā koe Shane

Official Information Act request: Cost for suppliers for the 2021/2022 financial year

Thank you for your email of 2 May 2023, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding the cost for suppliers for the 2021/2022 financial year. Specifically, you requested:

I would like an extract of the annual amount spent with all suppliers for the 2021/2022 financial year.

I would like this data in an open format, csv or json formats would be suitable.

I would like the following details provided:

- *Supplier Name*
- *Suppliers NZBN number (if available)*
- *Total Amount Spent*

The information you have requested does not currently exist in the format you have requested. Providing this information to you in the format you have requested would require substantial manual collation. Accordingly, I am refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation. Using a definition of 'supplier' to mean 'companies and organisations the Ministry received goods and services from', we would need to check records to confirm which payees and invoices meet this definition and can thereby be treated as in scope of your request.

The Ministry's financial system, Technology One, enables us to record the following criteria:

- payments to each supplier/reimbursement to staff,
- the New Zealand Business Number in instances where the supplier has shown it on a tax invoice and our it was entered into our finance system,
- the value of payments.

While the Ministry's financial system can produce the raw data, getting it ready for release would require us to manually review and cross-reference 38,946 invoices to more than 4,600 payees to identify any non-suppliers in the data, for example, government agencies, reimbursements to staff, court and tribunal operational costs, including payments to jurors.

The task of checking these records can only be undertaken manually and completed by our Finance team as it requires professional knowledge and expertise. We would also need to verify this information with the business units that undertook the original purchases, to

confirm specific details. To that end, we consider undertaking the above actions to be an extensive task, amounting to substantial collation.

We have considered consulting with you to determine whether the scope of the request could be refined to avoid refusing your request. However, narrowing the scope for the function of the supplier would still require cross-referencing more than 4,600 data entries and would not have resolved the difficulty.

While I am refusing your request, I wish to inform you of information already publicly available that may be of interest to you. As part of the Annual Review process, the Ministry publishes the amount spent for all contractors and consultants. The 2021/22 Annual Review appendices including the contractor and consultant spend is available on the Parliament website here: parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCJU_EVI_130070_JU234203/b555fbbcb26367bdf6a773ffa593174e9c9a044b

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at media@justice.govt.nz.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Anouk Alexander
Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Governance and Finance