



12 June 2024

OIAD-1090

Charles Finley  
fyi-request-26807-2d7401a5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Charles,

Thank you for your email of 15 May 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Please provide information on whether you have used contractors, consultants or other providers of services to fill gaps you have from accepting voluntary redundancy in the last six months. I am interested in both short term filling of gaps and long term filling of skill gaps and why redundancy would be used and then services being bought in.*

*With this, please detail*

- The business unit and job area being filled.*
- The case / argument for using a supplier to fill a gap where redundancy was accepted.*
- The cost of this supplier providing this resource (or additional service).*
- The approval endorsing this decision, given redundancy was given.*
- If possible, the total cost of providing this service above the standard cost (such as the cost of payout plus the increase in cost through using a consultant).*

*For completeness, I am interested and think this is in the public interest as voluntary redundancy would imply that services are no longer needed, but then if money is being used to give work to consultants then I am interested in understanding how this is best use of taxpayer funds. Please note I have asked various agencies who have announced the use of voluntary redundancies this question.*

The majority of kaimahi who accepted an offer of voluntary redundancy from the Ministry finished on Friday 24 May 2024. To have kaimahi expression of interest for voluntary redundancy accepted, a genuine redundancy situation had to exist, and therefore the Ministry has not engaged any contractors, consultants or other providers of services to fill gaps from kaimahi accepting voluntary redundancy, nor does it plan to.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at:

[www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note that, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tracey Kaio', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Tracey Kaio**  
General Manager – People and Capability  
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao