

5 July 2024

Harris Leigh
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Tēnā koe Harris

Official Information Act (OIA) request: Number of engagements of Doug Craig/RDC Consulting

On 6 June 2024, you contacted Stats NZ requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Under the Official Information Act I seek information on

- 1) the number of times Statistics New Zealand has contracted services from or otherwise engaged Mr Doug Craig either directly, through RDC Group, or through any other mechanism such as temporary employment contract or engagement through another company.*
- 2) the number of times Statistics New Zealand has contracted services from or otherwise engaged RDC Group.*
- 3) the total quantum paid to Mr Craig and RDC through the engagements mentioned in (1) & (2). Given the potential for commercial confidentiality, I am happy for you to redact hourly rates, it is the total quantum paid that I am seeking.*
- 4) For each engagement identified whether or not the engagement was by a competitive market process.*
- 5) Whether Mr Craig was engaged (in any manner) to provide services to Stats NZ when Stats NZ chief executive Mark Sowden announced Mr Doug Craig of the RDC Group had been appointed to undertake an investigation 5 June 2024.*
- 6) Information about the competitive market process that led to Mr Craig being engaged to undertake the investigation announced by Mr Sowden on 5 June 2024. In the absence of a competitive market process, any information held by the Stats NZ on the selection process that led to Mr Craig being selected for this project.*

For requests 1, 2 & 3 please take the time frame as being from 1 July 2019 until now.

For the current financial year I am happy to receive figures from 1 July 2023-30 May 2024.

I will respond to each of your questions in turn.

- 1) the number of times Statistics New Zealand has contracted services from or otherwise engaged Mr Doug Craig either directly, through RDC Group, or through**

any other mechanism such as temporary employment contract or engagement through another company.

2) the number of times Statistics New Zealand has contracted services from or otherwise engaged RDC Group.

From 1 July 2019 to 6 June 2024 Stats NZ has engaged the RDC Group three times, with Doug Craig being the main contact on the first two listed below:

- *Complaints Investigation/Assurance Advice:* To review matters relating to the alleged misuse of census forms and census data. This investigation is currently underway.
- *Strategic advice and governance:* Review and provision of advice on opportunities for the Leadership Team and Stats NZ to enhance arrangements relating to its leadership and governance arrangements to support effective decision making, risk management and governance oversight of Stats NZ strategy and operations. This has been completed.
- *Census 2013 Issue Remediation Support:* Support to understand the implications of any errors in the 2013 Census population counts (as determined by the analysis currently underway) and advice on how these implications could be remedied. This has been completed.

3) the total quantum paid to Mr Craig and RDC through the engagements mentioned in (1) & (2). Given the potential for commercial confidentiality, I am happy for you to redact hourly rates, it is the total quantum paid that I am seeking.

The first contract is currently underway and to date no payment has been made.

For the remaining two contracts listed above Stats NZ has paid the RDC Group a total of \$86,045.00.

4) For each engagement identified whether or not the engagement was by a competitive market process.

RDC Group is a member of the All of Government Consultancy Services Panel (the Panel). Engagements via the Panel are exempt from the requirements to undertake a competitive market process under Rule 57 of the Government Procurement Rules. In order to participate on the Panel, the RDC Group was required to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) response to MBIE's procurement centre of excellence.

5) Whether Mr Craig was engaged (in any manner) to provide services to Stats NZ when Stats NZ chief executive Mark Sowden announced Mr Doug Craig of the RDC Group had been appointed to undertake an investigation 5 June 2024.

Doug Craig and the RDC Group had no current contracts with Stats NZ when they were appointed to undertake the current investigation on 5 June 2024.

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6) Information about the competitive market process that led to Mr Craig being engaged to undertake the investigation announced by Mr Sowden on 5 June 2024. In the absence of a competitive market process, any information held by the Stats NZ on the selection process that led to Mr Craig being selected for this project.

Information relating to the selection process for Doug Craig has been published on the [Stats NZ website](#) alongside the terms of reference of the investigation. This info is included below:

Doug Craig is the Director of the RDC Group. He is an experienced public sector leader and a former State Services Deputy Commissioner, with a background in law, accounting, and strategy. He has significant experience in implementing large and complex projects and has advised on and led many organisational wide responses to critical incidents of a similar nature. Craig is a member of the Public Service Commission's panel of independent reviewers.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact Stats NZ at: OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

It is Stats NZ's policy to proactively release its responses to official information requests where possible. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Stats NZ website. Publishing responses creates greater openness and transparency of government decision-making and helps better inform public understanding of the reasons for decisions.

Nāku noa, nā



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