



TE TAI ŌHANGA
THE TREASURY

Reference: 20240769

14 October 2024

Kitty
fyi-request-28628-ce5ad3a6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Kitty

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 2 October 2024. You requested the following:

In 2009, Treasury papers advised that taxpayers incurred around \$316,000-a-year to pay for a subsidy to keep costs down at Bellamy's, an on-site catering service which caters for the needs of MPs.

Please advise:

- Does this subsidy still exist today in any way, shape, or form? Have, or do, other subsidies of this kind exist for other specific catering services, or just Bellamy's?*
- What form does, or did, this subsidy take for MPs? (Eg: Is it a monetary allowance per-MP, a discount applied at the counter, a grant given to the business operator in exchange for lower prices, etc?)*
- What is, or has been, the cost to taxpayers for this subsidy year-on-year since 2009?*
- If the subsidy no longer exists, what is the reason for this, and what mechanism is currently in place to keep costs down for the catering needs of MPs?*
- If the subsidy no longer exists, please provide the figures for the year-on-year costs incurred by the mechanism which has replaced it/serves the purpose it previously served (since 2009, or as early as possible, if records begin later than 2009). For example, if there is a mechanism which was newly created to serve the purpose previously served by the Bellamy's subsidy, please provide a summary on the creation of this, and the year-on-year cost figures to date. If the subsidy's purpose was instead addressed by an increase to another existing budgetary allowance for MPs, please provide information on that, and the year-on-year cost figures for this allowance.*

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<https://treasury.govt.nz>

Information not held

I do not hold the information you have requested. In my view, it would have been necessary under section 14 of the OIA to transfer your request to the Parliamentary Service because the information you requested is held by that agency. However, I am unable to transfer your request as Parliamentary Services is not subject to the OIA. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(g) of the OIA because the information is not held.

The information you are seeking can be requested directly from Parliamentary Service via email Parlinfo@parliament.govt.nz. However, please be aware that Parliamentary Service is not required to respond in accordance with the requirements of the OIA.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Pooja Patel
Team Leader, Justice, Security and Government Services