

23 JUL 2015

Alex Harris
fyi-request-2892-734ffed6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Harris

Official Information Act request: statistics on fraud

Thank you for your email dated 30 June 2015 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information on fraud.

The Ministry of Justice exists to create a fairer and safer New Zealand and provides public services to help achieve this. New Zealanders expect the highest levels of honesty and integrity from people working in the justice sector. It is essential that Ministry employees act ethically, honestly and in a way that is consistent with the laws of New Zealand.

Ministry employees are expected to demonstrate high standards of professional behaviour in carrying out their duties. Professional integrity and responsibility are central to the maintenance of public and Government confidence in the Ministry and the justice system. The Ministry of Justice takes any allegations of unlawful behaviour seriously and investigates them thoroughly in line with its obligations as a both a good employer and its role in the justice system.

Your questions have been answered below.

1. *How many allegations of fraud have there been against Ministry of Justice staff in the last year?*

The Ministry of Justice employs approximately 3,500 staff. In the financial year ended 30 June 2015, there was one reported fraud allegation against a Ministry employee.

2. *How many were investigated? How many were substantiated? How many were reported to police?*

The allegation referred to in the response to your first question was fully investigated. As a result of the investigation, the Ministry had a reasonable belief that an incident of fraud had occurred. The allegation was therefore reported to Police in accordance with the Ministry's Fraud Policy. The person no longer works at the Ministry.

3. *What was the rough value (if any) of any alleged fraud investigated, substantiated, and reported?*

The Ministry estimated the value of the alleged fraud reported to Police was up to \$7,000.

I trust this satisfies your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Stew', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Suzanne Stew
Deputy Secretary, Corporate