

30 August 2018



Jan MacPherson
fyi-request-8470-d5125fe9@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms MacPherson

Ref: 0052554

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 9 August 2018 asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

We wish to enquire as to the cost of ACC utilising legal firms (such as Medico Law) to "fight" their review applications through the disputes process.

We would like an cost per review and also the total paid to said legal firms by ACC for the review process since 2015

Our response

The costs paid by ACC for external legal representation at reviews is held on individual client files. In order to provide a response to your request, ACC would need to search through thousands of files that were subject to a review since 2015 to determine if an external legal representative was engaged and the associated costs.

We must decline your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. We have considered asking you to refine your request, or possibly extending the time limit for responding. However, we have determined that the resources required to obtain the information would significantly impact the everyday operations of ACC, and neither option would likely enable the request to be granted.

Queries

If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, ACC will be happy to work with you to resolve these. Please address any concerns by emailing GES@acc.co.nz.

You also have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Government Engagement and Support