

10 May 2023



s9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

Noa'ia s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 24 April 2023, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to suspensions, graphic designers and redundancies. Please note that while they were submitted as three separate OIAs, I have outlined all three requests and my responses to each below for ease.

1. *How many members of staff working for your organisation were suspended in the 2022/23 financial year?*
2. *How many members of staff are currently suspended for any reason?*
3. *How many members of staff are currently suspended and are still receiving their salary?*
4. *For those suspended and still receiving their salaries, please indicate the reason for their suspension and the duration of their suspension so far.*

The Ministry has not had any staff suspensions in the 2022/23 financial year, I must therefore refuse your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

Please provide the following information for the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23:

5. *Number of employees made redundant broken down into compulsory and voluntary redundancies. Please also provide total amount of redundancy pay-outs - compulsory as well as discretionary.*

The Ministry had one voluntary redundancy in the 2021/22 financial year; this employee was paid a \$35,000 discretionary redundancy payment. The Ministry had no redundancies for the 2020/21 and 2022/23 financial years.

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PO Box 833, Wellington 6140
Phone: 04 473 4493
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Christchurch

Level 1, BNZ Centre
120 Hereford St
Private Bag 4741
Christchurch 8011
Fax: 03 353 9499

6. *For each compulsory redundancy, please provide the number of cases where the employee was eligible for payment of pension. For each of these cases, please provide following:*
 - a. *Amount paid out as statutory redundancy payment*
 - b. *Amount paid out as discretionary redundancy payment*
 - c. *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70.*

The Ministry did not have any compulsory redundancies during the period requested. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

7. *For each voluntary redundancy, please provide the number of cases where the employee was eligible for payment of pension. For each of these cases, please provide following:*
 - a. *Amount paid out as statutory redundancy payment*
 - b. *Amount paid out as discretionary redundancy payment*
 - c. *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 50-55, 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70.*
8. *Provide following information for all cases of where the employee was eligible for early payment of pension:*
 - a. *Amount paid in statutory redundancy payment*
 - b. *Amount paid out in discretionary redundancy payment*
 - c. *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70,*
 - d. *Total strain cost to the pension fund for early payment of pension due to redundancy.*
 - e. *If possible please break down this figure into strain costs due to voluntary and compulsory redundancy.*

Of the one voluntary redundancy, I can confirm that this employee was not eligible for payment of pension (including early payment of pension). I must therefore refuse these parts of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

On 27 April 2023, the Ministry requested further clarification on your OIA request about graphic designers. You confirmed that you were seeking information for the last 12 months. Please note that under section 15(1AA) of the OIA, if a request is amended or clarified after the date on which it is received, the department or organisation that receives the request may treat the amended or clarified request as a new request that, for the purposes of subsection (1), replaces the original request.

9. *How many in-house graphic designers does your organisation employ?*
10. *What is the budget for in-house/employed graphic designers?*

The Ministry currently employs one graphic designer. The budget for our in-house graphic designer amounts to the \$100,000-\$110,000 salary band range.

11. *How much has been spent on contracting external graphic designers?*
 - a. *If external contractors have been used, why did your organisation not use your employed/in-house graphic designers?*

We strive to use internal design resources wherever practicable. An external contractor is used when the Ministry lacks the internal capacity to carry out the work. The Ministry spent a total of \$276,240 on external graphic companies within the last 12 months. The Ministry's external design work predominantly reflects the high demand for resources to keep Pacific communities informed of developments such as COVID-19, including vaccinations and health advice. Additionally, the Ministry has had a substantial design workload during this period with the release of multiple cornerstone publications, including the All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy, the Leo

Moana o Aotearoa Survey Report, the Pacific Languages Strategy and nine Pacific language weeks, all requiring specialist resources.

12. If employed/in-house or external contractors have been used to design a report in the last 12 months, was the report made public?

a. If not, why not?

Yes, all reports produced over the past 12 months by external contractors and in-house graphic designers are publicly available on our website [here](#). The Ministry's Long-Term Insights Briefing is yet to be released but will be made public in the next couple of months.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: oia_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Faiākse'ea



Leatigaga Jason Tualima
**Deputy Secretary,
Corporate Services**