

25 January 2024

s9(2)(a)

Ni sa bula vinaka s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA035-2023/24)

On 7 December 2023, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to Christmas expenditure. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

1. *Total amount paid in end-of-year bonuses to the CEO this Christmas.*

The Public Service Commissioner (the Commissioner) is the employer of Public Service chief executives and determines their remuneration. In 2018, the Commissioner took a new approach to managing the performance of chief executives, which included changing the structure of their remuneration. These changes mean performance pay entitlements are no longer included in chief executive employment agreements from 1 July 2018.

2. *Total amount paid in bonuses to staff employed by your organization this Christmas.*
3. *Please also provide the same for Christmas 2022.*

I can confirm that the Ministry does not pay bonuses to staff. I must therefore refuse your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

4. *Total expenditure on presents for staff including but not limited to 'secret Santa' etc.*
5. *Please include this cost for last year also.*
6. *Number of Christmas trees purchased and erected, and the cost of these purchases for this year.*
7. *Please also include the cost for any Christmas lights for tree and any lights for buildings for this year.*
8. *Please also include the cost of both for last year, too.*
9. *Please highlight if the council had any left over from last year.*

10. Please breakdown the amount spent on the following for the years 2022 and 2023: Wrapping paper, Santa hats, alcohol for parties, party hats, Christmas crackers, Christmas cards, Christmas decorations.

The Ministry has not purchased any of the items listed in questions 4-10. I must therefore refuse these parts of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

11. Total expenditure breakdown on Christmas parties. Please also include in the breakdown any travel arrangement costs.

The Ministry spent \$200.00 (GST inclusive) on food at an end-of-year function in 2023. There were no travel or other associated costs.

12. Please include this for last year, also.

You can find the information for 2022 on our website here: <https://www.mpp.govt.nz/assets/OIA-Responses/202223-DOIA022-FINAL-signed-response-REDACTED.pdf>. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information is publicly available.

13. Duration of office closure during the Christmas period.

The Ministry's offices closed from Friday 22 December 2023 and reopened Monday 8 January 2024.

14. Please specify how many managers and senior executive staff are taking more hours/days out of office than is blanket across the Department/Ministry for the Christmas period.

I can confirm that seven managers and senior executive staff took additional out of office days beyond the office closure period.

15. Does the Christmas office closure also affect contactors paid by the Department/Ministry? If not, how much are they being paid over the Christmas break in an hourly rate and how much is it expected to cost the Department/Ministry?

Yes. The office closure applies to all staff, including contractors.

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: oiar_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.

Vinaka vakalevu

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form a cursive, somewhat abstract shape.

Danilo Coelho de Almeida
Deputy Secretary,
Corporate Services