

5 June 2024

s9(2)(a)

Ni sa bula vinaka s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA065-2023/24)

On 7 May 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to consultancy expenditure on the Ministry's current change process. I have outlined your requests and my responses below.

Please provide the information for the period from 1st October 2023 to 30th April 2024:

- 1. A list of all companies contracted to provide consultancy services related to departmental restructures or redundancy processes, including services in human resources, training, support and legal.*
- 2. The total amount spent on these consultancy services during the specified period. For ongoing contracts, please include the current expenditure and an estimate of the standard hourly or daily rates charged by these services.*

In response to the Government's fiscal sustainability goals to reduce expenditure in the public service, the Ministry contracted PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited (PwC) and H2R Consulting (H2R) for services relating to the change process. This was done through the All-of-Government Consultancy Services Panel. Additionally, the Ministry sought legal advice from an existing arrangement with McBride Davenport James through the External Legal Services Panel.

The rates through these panels are considered commercially sensitive and confidential, and we are unauthorised to disclose them. I must therefore withhold this information under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA as making it available would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the parties who are the subject of the information. I do not consider that the public interest in the release of this information outweighs the need to withhold it.

However, I can confirm that the Ministry spent a total of \$196,798.50 on its contract with PwC and \$11,150.40 with H2R.

3. *The duration of each contract related to the aforementioned services. For contracts that are still active, please provide the expected end date or the estimated total duration.*

The Ministry's contract with PwC commenced in February 2024 and is expected to end this month. Our contract with H2R began in April 2024 and is anticipated to end in October 2024.

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: uia_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



Danilo Coelho de Almeida
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