

7 August 2024

s9(2)(a)

Mālō e lelei s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA005-2024/25)

On 22 July 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information in relation to a list of roles with a time allowance for union activities. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses below.

1. *A table/list of your organisation's pay bands with the Step Range (Band), Minimum and Maximum salaries (See attached for an example).*

Please refer to the table below.

Table: Ministry for Pacific Peoples Pay Bands

Pay Band	Minimum	Maximum
21	\$177,507	\$266,261
20	\$152,176	\$228,264
19	\$129,535	\$194,303
18	\$110,376	\$165,564
17	\$93,812	\$140,718
16	\$78,275	\$117,413
15	\$66,930	\$100,394
14	\$59,370	\$89,054
13	\$52,675	\$79,013
12	\$48,079	\$72,119

2. *A table/list of each staff member (by job title) who is permitted to spend salaried time for the purpose of union organisation, advocacy or other union activity, whether on a full time or part-time basis. Please include the number of paid hours per month permitted for such activity, the job title and the salary band (or step range band, e.g., B, D, E, F etc) for each role.*
 - *Please do not include information where the only involvement is regular staff who are union members being entitled to attend occasional union meetings.*

The Public Service Association (PSA) is the trade union that represents and supports workers across central government, state-owned enterprises, local councils, health boards and community groups within New Zealand.

It is voluntary for a staff member to undertake union/advocacy related activities over and above their primary role. The Ministry has two staff members who have volunteered to be our PSA delegates and hold the following roles; Executive Assistant and Senior Advisor – Partnerships. The time spent performing these duties is on an ad hoc basis at any given time and when the need is required.

With only two staff members performing these duties, I am withholding their salary band information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. I am satisfied that there are no other public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information withheld under section 9 of the OIA available.

3. *Please indicate how much money was paid to any unions by your organisation in 2022, 2023, 2024 so far, and any planned payments for the remainder of 2024. (Do not include payroll deductions of Union membership dues).*
 - *For each payment, please outline the recipient, value and purpose of the payment.*
4. *Please indicate whether any Union or their staff, or any MPP staff member employed for the purpose of union organisation or administration is permitted to use any office space owned/leased by your organisation, if so how often are they permitted to use it (ie is it on an ad hoc basis, part time (how many hours per week/month), or full time).*
 - *What is the area of the office space that Unions are permitted to use.*
 - *What rent (if any) is charged for use of the office space?*

The Ministry has not made payments to PSA or any other union. I can also confirm there are no union staff that work at any of the Ministry's offices, with the exception of our PSA delegates who are full time employees of the Ministry and perform their normal duties and work on site. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

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: oa_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.

Mālō 'aupito

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form a stylized, cursive name.

Danilo Coelho de Almeida
Deputy Secretary
Corporate and Support Services