

31 October 2024

s9(2)(a)

Mālo ni s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA017-2024/25)

On 24 September 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to food and drink costs at the Ministry. On 22 October we informed you via letter that an extension to your request was necessary due to the need to search through a large quantity of information. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

1. *The total spending on food and drink (including alcoholic) since the 1st of January 2024. Please provide a cost breakdown of these purchases by event, month and department.*
2. *Copies of receipts or statements for these purchases.*

The Ministry spent approximately \$17,000 on food and drink from 1 January 2024 to 24 September 2024. Note, the \$17,000 spend includes elements of other travel costs, such as accommodation. Aligned with the Ministry's Travel Policy, no funds were spent on alcoholic beverages, as such expenses are deemed unreasonable and inappropriate.

I am refusing part of your request, specifically, the cost breakdown of these purchases by event, month and department and for copies of receipts or statements for these purchases under section 18(f) of the OIA. Providing this information would require substantial collation or research, including identifying and separating each expense claim and related travel costs, which would unreasonably interfere with our operations.

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: ويا_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.

Fakamalie atu

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

Danilo Coelho de Almeida
Deputy Secretary,
Corporate & Support Services