

4 February 2021

Mr Ryan Thomas  
[fyi-request-14311-ea82f845@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14311-ea82f845@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Mr Thomas

Thank you for your email of 16 December 2020 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Could we please be made aware of the costs involved to the taxpayer in regards to xmas parties this year? Wether this be directly funding parties or allowing staff paid time off.*

Oranga Tamariki employs over 4,000 people and we understand that the work our employees do throughout the year can be tough. Our end of year Christmas functions give us the opportunity to thank our staff and reflect on the year that has passed. Current Oranga Tamariki policy provides for a contribution of up to twenty dollars per employee towards Christmas functions. Please note this contribution is for food only - any alcohol must be self-funded. As at 5 January 2021, the total contributed to Christmas functions across Oranga Tamariki for the year 2020 amounted to \$52,359; however, please be aware that this could increase in the coming weeks as further invoices are submitted and processed.

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@ot.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Groom', written in a cursive style.

Steve Groom  
**General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services**