

26 September 2014

D E Sheridan

fyi-request-1974-0acdc4d3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear D E Sheridan

Thank you for your Official Information Act (Act) request of 29 August 2014 for the following information:

1. Re: Press support employed by the office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

i. How many full time people have been employed by the NZ government to liaise with the press or deal with the press in any way (either social media or main stream media or any other form of media), or who have supported such operations - on a yearly basis for the past 10 years?

i.a. How much has been paid on salaries per year for this over the past 10 years?

ii. Please provide the numbers of people who have done the above part time on a yearly basis for the past 10 years.

ii.a. How much has been paid per year for salaries for part time press support for each year over the past 10 years?

iii. Please provide the numbers of people who do the above on a contracted basis, including:

a. their names, and

b. the amount paid to the top 10 press contractors per year on a yearly basis for the past 10 years and c. the total amount paid to such contractors for each of the past 10 years

iv. How much has been paid overall for press activities (including salaries as well as money paid for various public relation and press type services) for each of the last 10 years?

2. Re: Senior Press support employed by the NZ Prime Minister and Cabinet Please provide each of the following:

i. the names,

ii. roles,

iii. salaries and

iv. bonuses

of the senior press support persons employed by the NZ Prime Minister and Cabinet for each of the last 10 years.

3. Re: Briefing of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

i. How often is the Prime Minister usually briefed a. in writing and b. verbally by his senior press support people?

ii. How often is the Cabinet usually briefed by their senior press support people?

a. in writing and

b. verbally



- iii. In particular, how often has the Prime Minister usually been briefed by senior staff person Jason Ede?
- in writing and
 - verbally
 - What is Jason Ede's current role in government?
 - Is Jason Ede still on the public payroll? If so, how much is he being paid in salary per year?
 - What has Jason Ede's salary been per year for each of the past 10 years?
 - What bonuses has Jason Ede been paid per year for each of the past 10 years?

- iv. How often is the Prime Minister usually briefed by David Farrar regarding the results of polls and provided recommendations?
- in writing and
 - verbally
 - Please provide the results of polling and canvassing by David Farrar, as well as copies of his recommendations for each of the last 10 years.
 - How much has David Farrar been paid by the NZ government for services for all of the services he has provided the government for each of the last 10 years?

4. Re: Connection with main stream media - A
- How many press support people who are employed (full time or part time) by the NZ Prime Minister's office and Cabinet, formerly worked in main stream media?
 - What are their names?
 - With which media were they affiliated?
 - What was the salary of each of the 5 highest paid press support people employed to work for the NZ government for each of the past 10 years.

5. Re: Connection with main stream media - B
- How many press support people employed under contract by the NZ Prime Minister's office and Cabinet formerly worked or currently work in main stream media?
 - What are their names?
 - With which media were they affiliated?
 - What was the salary (and name) of each of the 5 highest paid press support people who were contracted to work for the NZ government for each of the past 10 years.
 - How much money has been paid to press contractors for each of the past 10 years:

6. How much money was paid per year for each of the past 10 years by the NZ government for any reason to the following papers (including their online version) to each of the following by the NZ government?
- The New Zealand Herald
 - The Dominion Post
 - The Press
 - The Otago Daily Times
 - Herald on Sunday
 - The Sunday Star-Times
 - The National Business Review
 - Business North

6. How much money was paid per year for each of the past 10 years by the NZ government for any reason to TV stations? (Please list by TV station and amount.)

7. How much money was paid per year for each of the past 10 years by the NZ government for any reason to radio stations? (Please list by radio station and amount.)

8. How much money was paid per year for each of the past 10 years by the NZ government for any reason to bloggers? (Please list by blog name [and owner] and the amount.)

9. How much money was paid per year for each of the past 10 years by the NZ government for any reason to Cameron Slater?

10. How much money was paid per year for each of the past 10 years by the NZ government for any reason to Simon Lusk?

11. How much money was paid per year for each of the past 10 years by the NZ government for any reason to Aaron Bhatnager?

12. How much money was paid per year for each of the past 10 years by the NZ government for any reason to Jordan Williams?

13. Is Cameron Slater or Carrick Williams authorized to be arms dealers on behalf of the New Zealand government?

14. Has the New Zealand government:

i. authorized Cameron Slater's recent trip to Israel to act in the interest of the NZ government?

ii. had expenses paid or any other form of remuneration by the NZ government or any of it's Cabinet Minister's for his recent trip to Israel?

(If so what has he been paid and what else regarding his trip has been paid for at public expense?)

15. What is the relationship of the NZ government (including its press support people) with www.waterfordpress.co.nz?

16. Re: Social media management

i. How much money per year for each of the past 10 years has been spent on social media management?

ii. What did social media management consist of?

iii. What were the top 20 social media sites with which the government Press support liaised with?

18. How much money has the NZ government paid to the following media personalities on an annual basis for each of the last 10 years:

1. Mike Hosking
2. Paul Henry
3. Paul Holmes

18. Re: Censorship

i. Is the NZ government engaged in censoring social media it does not like in any way?

ii. To what part of government can questions be asked to investigate interference with visibility of social media?

I note that you have already received correspondence on this matter from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). You were advised by DPMC that information on spending and staffing of Ministerial Offices would be held by the Department of Internal Affairs, however I note that you have forwarded on to the Department all of the questions you initially addressed to DPMC. The Department, in the same way as DPMC, is not able to address questions in relation to spending across the 'NZ Government'.

The Department can, however, address your questions on press staff in relation to those employed by the Department to work in Ministerial offices. I am now extending the deadline in relation to these questions by 20 working days under section 15A(1) of the Act as:

- a) The request is for a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the Department; and
- b) Consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

For your information the Department responds on an annual basis to Government Administration Committee Standard Estimates and Financial Review questionnaires, which include questions on communications staff and contractors. The Department's responses to these going back to the 2007/08 financial year can be found on the New Zealand Parliament website at <http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/sc/documents/evidence>. This includes information on the number of communications staff employed by the Department going back to 2003, including staff employed in Ministerial offices.

For your requests that do not relate to Ministerial offices I encourage you to look at the contact lists provided to you by DPMC and clearly address your question to the agency that is likely to hold the information that you are seeking. It should be noted that no one agency will be able to address such questions across the New Zealand government, if indeed you are after all of government spending on such issues you will need to make your request to each agency.

Under section 28(2) of the Act, you are entitled to seek a review of my decision by way of complaint to the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely



Janice Calvert
General Manager
Ministerial and Secretariat Services