

30 October 2014

D E Sheridan

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

Dear D E Sheridan

1. Further to my letter to you of 26 September 2014, I am now in a position to provide you with information in respect of the questions relating to Ministerial Services as detailed below. As previously advised I am not able to address questions in relation to spending across all of government.
2. *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?*
3. The following table provides information on the number of full and part-time staff identified as having a press/communications component in their role employed by the Department of Internal Affairs to work in the office of the Prime Minister over the last ten years. It should be noted that some of the positions encompass other duties.
4. I am withholding information on how much has been paid on salaries per year as the small number of staff involved and the fluctuations in numbers from year to year could potentially enable individuals salaries to be identified. This information is being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act (the Act) to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Date	Total No of Press /Communications staff	No. of full time positions	No. of part-time positions
31 May 2014	6	5	1
30 June 2013	7	5	2
30 June 2012	6	4	2
30 June 2011	7	6	1
30 June 2010	7	6	1
30 June 2009	5	5	-
30 June 2008	10	10	-
30 June 2007	7	7	-
30 June 2006	6	6	-
30 June 2005	8	8	-

5. *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*
6. There are currently no contractors employed in the office of the Prime Minister to carry out work with a press/communications component.
7. As previously advised information on contractors engaged by the Department is provided on an annual basis in response to Standard Estimates and Financial Review questionnaires, which are available at <http://www.parliament.nz/en-nz/pb/sc/documents/evidence>.
8. *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?*
9. We consider this question relates to salaries for press support in the office of the Prime Minister and is therefore covered by my response in paragraphs 4 and 7. It should be noted that the Department's financial system does not contain a specific code for public relations or press services.
10. *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.*
11. The table below provides the names and roles of senior press support staff in the office of the Prime Minister for each of the previous 10 years. I am withholding details of salaries under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. Staff employed by the Department in Ministerial offices do not receive bonuses.

Date	Titles of Senior Press Roles	Names
31 May 2014	Chief Press Secretary Principal Communications Advisor	Sia Aston Kevin Taylor
30 June 2013	Chief Press Secretary Principal Communications Advisor	Kelly Boxall Kevin Taylor
30 June 2012	Chief Press Secretary	Kevin Taylor
30 June 2011	Chief Press Secretary Senior Press Secretary	Kevin Taylor Paula Oliver
30 June 2010	Chief Press Secretary	Kevin Taylor
30 June 2009	Chief Press Secretary	Kevin Taylor
30 June 2008	Chief Press Secretary Senior Communications Advisor Communications Manager	Kathryn Street Katherine Allen Andrew Cutler
30 June 2007	Chief Press Secretary Communications Manager	Kathryn Street Andrew Cutler
30 June 2006	Chief Press Secretary	David Lewis
30 June 2005	Chief Press Secretary	Michael Munro

12. *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?*
- a. in writing and*
 - b. verbally*
 - c. What is Jason Ede's current role in government?*
 - d. Is Jason Ede still on the public payroll? If so, how much is he being paid in salary per year?*
 - e. 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?*
13. I note you have previously been advised by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet that information specifically relating to the office of the Prime Minister should be addressed to that office. The Department does not hold information on Mr Ede's current employment status. Mr Ede's employment with the Department of Internal Affairs ended in January 2012. I am withholding any information on Mr Ede's salary while he was an employee of the Department, under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.
14. *Connection with main stream media - A*
- i. 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?*
 - ii. What are their names?*
 - iii. With which media were they affiliated?*
15. *Connection with main stream media - B*
- i. 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?*
 - ii. What are their names?*
 - iii. With which media were they affiliated?*
 - v. How much money has been paid to press contractors for each of the past 10 years:*
16. I am withholding details in relation to the previous employment history of individual employees and contractors under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. In relation to how much money has been paid to press contractors I refer you to my response in paragraph 7.
17. I have considered the competing public interests in relation to the information I am withholding and do not believe that the public interest in releasing the information should outweigh the public interest in preventing the harm that release of personal information would cause.
18. Under section 28(3) of the Act, you are entitled to seek a review of my decision by way of complaint to the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely



Tim McIvor
General Manager (Acting)
Ministerial and Secretariat Services