



5 April 2023

Ref: DOIA 2223-1993

Mark NMedia

Email: [fyi-request-22031-b6bbb443@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-22031-b6bbb443@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Mark NMedia

Thank you for your email of 8 March 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*This request is for New Zealand Government Procurement*

*On the New Zealand Government Procurement website there is a program called "Procurement for the Future" that promises saving taxpayers dollars. So I would like to ask:*

- A) *How many staff are involved in the Procurement for the Future Program? I would like information on the program team, not the whole department.*
- 1) *How many are permanent/fixed-term and how many are contractors?*
  - 2) *What is the higher contractor rate and the lowest? As an example: \$100 for a manager and \$60 for a EA. (Please specify the role and the contractor rate)*
  - 3) *What is the monthly spend of program staff costs? (Only for the program team)*
  - 4) *How much was spent on procurement for the future since the program started?*
- B) *There are rumours the program will create a new organisational structure for the New Zealand Government Procurement. Is that correct?*
- 1) *How many roles are proposed to being disestablished?*
  - 2) *How much will be department save with it?*
  - 3) *Would it increase or decrease the number of staff?*

Please see the MBIE's response to your request below:

**A) How many staff are involved in the Procurement for the Future Program? I would like information on the program team, not the whole department.**

*Cabinet approved an ambitious Procurement for the Future Programme to improve government procurement through delivering insight from spend data, capability and technology enablers to uplift performance and efficiencies gained working together to act a one government customer.*

*The core programme team of 15 are focused on projects which will deliver the following benefits, aiming to achieve better outcomes for New Zealanders:*

- *improve supplier engagement, performance and innovation;*
- *ensure government procurement is more efficient; and*
- *improved insights and intelligence.*

*Whilst multiple people from New Zealand Government Procurement are involved in working on the programme, it was essential to supplement the existing operational team with Change Management, Stakeholder Engagement and Programme and Project Management expertise given the necessity to work in collaboration and co-design with around 120 agencies mandated to use the government procurement rules, about 2,500 agencies encouraged to use the government procurement rules, the supplier/provider community and Māori.*

**1) How many are permanent/fixed-term and how many are contractors?**

*The intention was to fill these temporary programme team roles with Fixed Term Employees until New Zealand Government Procurement was able to structure the teams to align with the Procurement for the Future strategy, however given the shortage of experienced practitioners in the market it was necessary to engage with nine contractors while the remaining six roles were filled by Permanent/Fixed Term Employees.*

**2) What is the higher contractor rate and the lowest? As an example: \$100 for a manager and \$60 for a EA. (Please specify the role and the contractor rate)**

*Aligned with market rates the highest is \$180/hour (Programme Director) and lowest is \$110/hour (Senior Programme Coordinator).*

**3) What is the monthly spend of program staff costs? (Only for the program team)**

*The average of the last two months (January and December) was \$196,324.46 across the 15 programme team members indicated above.*

**4) How much was spent on procurement for the future since the program started?**

*\$2.213 million which includes staff costs, contractors, consultants and office/equipment.*

The decisions linked to the question B of your request are currently still under active consideration by MBIE. Therefore, information linked to questions B, B1, B2 and B3 is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the decision to withhold information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

I trust you find the information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Laurence Pidcock  
**General Manager New Zealand Government Procurement**  
New Zealand Government Procurement