

19 May 2023

Mr. ED Hirsche
fyi-request-22525-49f23974@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Mr. ED Hirsche

Official Information Act (OIA) request: Monthly Inflation

Thank you for your email dated 21 April 2023, in which you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Please tell me if you have ever estimated how much it would cost to survey, calculate and publish inflation on a monthly basis, rather than the current quarterly basis. If so, please tell how much it would cost and also release any records of decisions that your senior leaders or Ministers have made about this topic.*

Please also release any related information you might hold about quarterly and monthly inflation surveying.

Your request has been processed under the Act and I will answer each part of your request in turn:

Please tell me if you have ever estimated how much it would cost to survey, calculate and publish inflation on a monthly basis, rather than the current quarterly basis. If so, please tell how much it would cost and also release any records of decisions that your senior leaders or Ministers have made about this topic.

I can confirm that Stats NZ has not estimated how much it would cost to survey, calculate and publish inflation on a monthly basis, rather than the current quarterly basis. As such, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Please also release any related information you might hold about quarterly and monthly inflation surveying.

All related Information Stats NZ holds about quarterly and monthly inflation surveying is publicly available, as outlined below. As such, your request for this information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act because the information requested is already publicly available.

info@stats.govt.nz
toll-free 0508 525 525
stats.govt.nz

The 2013 Consumers Price Index (CPI) Advisory Committee met in May 2013 to undertake an independent review of the CPI and provide recommendations. Monthly CPI was one of the proposals that was consulted on but not approved. A paper outlining Stats NZ's decisions and progress on implementing the 2013 CPI Advisory Committee's recommendations is publicly available on our website here:

<https://statsnz.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p20045coll27/id/26/>.

Stats NZ is currently seeking feedback on our proposed data quality plan for measuring an inclusive and sustainable economy - including the frequency of CPI, among others. In our current context of recent high inflation there are renewed calls for a timelier measure of consumer prices, e.g., a monthly CPI with New Zealand now the only member of the OECD to not produce a monthly CPI.

A link to Stats NZ's consultation document is available on our website here: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/reports/measuring-an-inclusive-and-sustainable-economy/>. You may provide your feedback or ask questions via an email address at econstatsfuture@stats.govt.nz. We are also in the process of finalising the details of face-to-face (or online) events. If you are interested in being notified about these events, please email us at econstatsfuture@stats.govt.nz.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact Stats NZ at: OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you can contact us on the email above to discuss the response and/or 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Stats NZ website. Publishing responses creates greater openness and transparency of government decision-making and helps better inform public understanding of the reasons for decisions.

Nāku noa, nā



Mike Webb

Senior Manager – External & Government Relations | Office of the Chief Executive
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