



16 June 2023

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Shayne Gibson

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Dear Mr Gibson

Your Official Information Act request OIA2023-0780, dated 27 April 2023

In regard to your Official Information Act (the Act) request, that was received by the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) on 27 April 2023, the Department's response follows.

You have requested:

'an extract of the annual amount spent with all suppliers for the 2021/2022 financial year. I would like this data in an open format, csv or json formats would be suitable.

I would like the following details provided:

1. Supplier Name
2. Suppliers NZBN number (if available)
3. Total Amount Spent (we clarified that you were seeking GST exclusive figures).'

An Excel workbook of the information is attached, as well as a pdf file.

The Department is refusing the release of detailed information of those suppliers receiving under \$10,000 per annum under sections 18(f) and 9(2)(a) of the Act. This limit is also in line with that applied to the Department's Select Committee responses.

Section 9(2)(a) refers to the privacy of natural persons. The Department is responsible for reimbursing survivors and witnesses who appear in the Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions. Section 18(f) refers to substantial collation and research that would be required to review the information for those individuals.

The Department is refusing the release of supplier information under Section 18(f) where the expense was incurred by a staff member, who submits an expense claim. Substantial collation and research would be required to review the expense claims and identify the suppliers. Staff expense claims are not included in the response.

We consider that the withholding of information as mentioned above is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available

Further detail on the information

1. The information was compiled from data in the Accounts Payable system, based on payment of invoices dated between 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.
2. These invoices are for both operating and capital expenses.
3. Some suppliers have several accounts in the Accounts Payable ledger. These accounts have been totalled where it appears from a review of invoices that the organisation is the same legal entity. However, some entities operate a number of companies and there is a risk that different companies have been included in the total incorrectly.
4. 'Supplier' is deemed to be the organisation that the Department pays for a service. This may be an agency that sources services from others, eg Orbit Travel for airfares, hotels and other travel services, Bank of New Zealand for purchase cards.
5. Payments to organisations or individuals who are paid to participate in Committees administered by the Department, are excluded as the recipients are not considered to be suppliers.
6. Grants disbursed by the Department to organisations or individuals are excluded as the recipients are not considered to be suppliers.
7. Individuals who are included in the response are listed by their initial and last name, in line with the disclosure in the Department's replies to the Select Committee.

We intend to publish our response to your request on www.dia.govt.nz. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the Act's purpose of enabling more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies, and promoting the accountability of Ministers and officials.

If you have any feedback or questions about the Department's response, please let us know at OIA@DIA.govt.nz

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.

Yours sincerely



Sharyn Mitchell

Chief Financial Officer

Organisation Capability and Services | He Pou Aronui