

# Hon Grant Robertson

MP for Wellington Central

Minister of Finance

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Minister for Cyclone Recovery

Leader of the House



20 June 2023

Mike Bryant

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Dear Mike

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 24 May 2023.  
You requested:

*... information regarding the total dollar figures received by the government via taxable income and all other taxes enforced in New Zealand upon its citizens, residents, migrant workers, tourists and businesses for every year since the last election.*

*I wish to see how much of that money was paid to elected officials, along with the total number of elected government staff whose salary is paid by these taxes, along with the average salary amount for different types of elected public servants.*

*Furthermore, for each of those years I wish to request the total amount that ended up unaccounted for.*

Regarding your first question on total Government tax revenue received since the last election, the Financial Statements of the New Zealand Government for the year ended 30 June 2022 provides the total tax collections for 2022, 2021 and 2020. You can find these figures under "core crown revenue" which includes revenue from all taxes, levies, duties and other sources. Please see page 180 of the financial statements, available here: <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/system/files/2022-10/fsgnz-2022.pdf>.

A more itemised list of the separate revenue sources is available at page 71 of that document. Similar itemised lists are available in the published financial statements for prior years.

Furthermore, while the data for the year ended 30 June 2023 is not yet available, you can examine the forecasts and year-to-date tax collections published for the ten months to 30 April 2023 here:

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/system/files/2023-06/fsgnz-10mths-apr23.pdf>.

The relevant tables for comparison to the full year financial statements provided above can be found on page 8.

Regarding your second question on elected officials, I understand your question to be referring to amounts paid to elected Members of Parliament ("MPs"). Parliamentary Services have \$22 million allocated per year for Ministerial/Member salaries and allowances for each of the years covered by your requests. If you would like further information on other amounts that were allocated to Members for their offices or other expenses, you can find an itemised list in the annual Budget vote for Parliamentary Services:

<https://budget.govt.nz/budget/pdfs/estimates/v4/est23-v4-parser.pdf>

Typically, this amount funds the salaries of 120 MPs based on the current Salaries and Allowances determination. However, there have been points over this period where seats have been vacated and the total number of MPs has been less than 120. For example, the Mount Albert Electorate is currently vacant, meaning there are only 119 serving MPs until the next election.

Additionally, a breakdown of the current salaries can be found in the latest Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Determination, found here: <https://www.parliament.nz/media/6767/parliamentary-salaries-and-allowances-determination-2020.pdf>.

These rates have been effective since 2020 when Ministerial salaries were frozen for a period of three years, and will not be reviewed again until after this year's election.

Lastly, the Department of Internal Affairs ("DIA") is also responsible for amounts in relation to Ministerial Services, which support current and former elected officials in discharging their responsibilities. DIA has been allocated the following amounts for the relevant financial years of your request per their Budget bid baselines:

- 2023/24 - \$78.379 million.
- 2022/23 - \$71.679 million.
- 2021/22 - \$71.567 million.

If your request was also intended to cover elected local government representatives (i.e., mayors, local council members, etc.) I can confirm that none of these individuals' salaries are funded through central Government tax revenue. Instead, these individuals' salaries are paid through rates raised at a local level. For more information on the salaries of local representatives please find a more detailed breakdown available here:

<https://www.remauthority.govt.nz/local-government-elected-members/local-government-elected-members-remuneration/>.

Regarding your final question, my office is unsure what information you are requesting with respect to "unaccounted amounts". As we have not received a response to our request for clarification, the last part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA – the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely



Hon Grant Robertson  
**Minister of Finance**