



10 August 2023

Shane Gibson

fyi-request-23318-889281de@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: COR-2023/24-15-1

Tēnā koe Shane Gibson,

Thank you for your follow up email of 27 July 2023 regarding your Official Information Act (the Act) request for 21/22 financial year supplier data.

We are unable to supply this information without substantial collation as the finance system we use is not able to automatically generate a list of commercial suppliers. We are only able to run a report of everyone we made payments to in the 2021/22 financial year which also includes staff, committee members, contractors, and consultants. To separate current and former staff from the list we would need to cross reference names with current and past human resource records to determine if that person was a staff member during the period covered by the request. To separate committee members who have put in reimbursement claims would require us to consult with each business unit that has a committee for someone to cross reference the list with their past committee records.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is not required to report on supplier data to this level, and this information is not required for us to make payments. Public sector agencies use different IT systems based on their business needs. As this information is not required for our business needs, we do not have a system that is able to separate this data. While we cannot comment on their approach to your request, all agencies hold and record data differently, so what is possible for one agency may be more challenging for others.

While you have refined your request to ask for a smaller number of suppliers, determining who is a commercial supplier is what requires substantial collation. Therefore, we declined your request under section 18(f) of the Act. When making this decision we considered whether further refining the request would enable response (section 18B refers); however, we did not identify any refinement which would assist in processing your request while still satisfying your interests.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement