

23 August 2023

By email to: fyi-request-23768-c3647e7e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Attention: Cam Slater

Request for information about the cost of political donation prosecutions (CON0010246)

We refer to your email dated 10 August 2023 requesting the following official information in relation to the prosecution of individuals in connection with donations made to the National, Labour and NZ First parties:

1. *The total cost of the prosecutions.*
2. *Details of the “outside (non SFO) consultants, accounting experts and lawyers” engaged in each of the prosecutions, with costs to be itemised.*
3. *Any documents “showing why the SFO required the engagement of outside expertise/consultants rather than use their own in-house expertise”.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Please be advised that the Serious Fraud Office was responsible for the prosecution and the engagement of panel counsel (lawyers) only until the defendants’ plea in each case. Some of the information you have requested, specifically relating to the time period after which the Crown assumed responsibility, is therefore not held by us but instead held by Crown Law. As required by section 14 of the OIA, we have partially transferred your request to that extent to the Crown Law Office.

You will hear further from Crown Law concerning your request and if necessary, you can contact Crown Law at uia@crownlaw.govt.nz. We will respond to you separately in relation to the information we hold.

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
Serious Fraud Office