15-E-17

5 February 2015

Brendon Mills

Dear   Brendon,

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your official information request dated 13 January 2015 for the following: *What functions/activities have been outsourced to the private (profit or non-profit) sector since the department was established in 1987?*

I regret that I am not able to provide you with the information over the 18 year period that you seek because the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research (section 18(f) Official Information Act). I have borne in mind sections 18A and 18B of the Official Information Act but concluded that use of either provision would not assist in this case. You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) Official Information Act.

However, I am able to provide you with some general information regarding the Department's policy and practice. The Department employs permanent staff to deliver its core activities and outsources a wide range of specialist services and backfills resource shortfalls during certain periods of increased activities. Among the main services outsourced are:

a) Construction of visitor assets that deliver frontline services
b) Aircraft/helicopter services for delivery of field operations
c) Weed and animal pest control services
d) Crown Law services for provision of legal advice and representation services affecting the executive government
e) Management of the Department's core Human Resources system
f) Research of environment, biodiversity, and sustainability projects
g) Provision of weather information services
h) Delivery of a system to track and monitor wildlife
i) Skilled resources to develop core information systems
j) Audit and business advisory services
k) SAP financial system consultancy and maintenance
l) Information technology helpdesk services to assist with system and technical issues

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Tilbrook
Director, Finance
for Director-General