



24 October 2023

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M Daley

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Tēnā koe M Daley,

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA 2324-01019

I am responding to your email of 18 September 2023 to Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"I'm currently researching resource distribution in the NZ online safety sphere. I'd like the request the following information about the DIA Digital Safety Group broken down by financial year for the past 5 years - average FTE, revenue & expenditure, & reports received numbers."

On 25 September 2023, Te Tari Taiwhenua asked you to clarify your request. On the same day, you clarified your request as follows:

"To clarify, could I receive the cumulative reports per year for any report relating to online safety. I see you have the following 6 report options, could you pass on the sum of all reports received through here, by financial year for the past 5 years. If there are any other reporting mediums that take reports directed at online safety they should also be included. Breakdowns on the content of the report are not required but you're if unsure of whether report data falls in the online safety category feel free to include totals for each category instead: Report Online Child Exploitation Material; Report Online Violent Extremist Material; Report TXT Spam; Report Email Spam; Report Fax Spam; Report other harmful online content."

I respond to your request below.

Digital Safety Group Full-time Equivalent (FTE)

I am releasing to you a table with the FTE information, as at the end of financial year since the Digital Safety Group's (the Group's) establishment in 2018, listed as **Table 1** under **Appendix A**. This information is broken down by FTE for the Group following the 2018 branch restructure.

The Group was established in 2018 as part of the Regulatory Services branch restructure. This involved merging two teams, Censorship Compliance unit and Electronic Messaging Compliance unit, and establishing an additional team, Service Design, to carry out operational policy, engagement and innovation functions. As of 2023, the Group includes Intelligence and Insights, Digital Violent Extremism, Digital Messaging and Systems, Digital Child Exploitation, and Design, Engagement and Innovation.

As a result of the restructure, there is unfortunately no FTE information for the Group available for the financial year ending 30 June 2019. We have made every possible effort to locate the information, however, it is not held within Te Tari Taiwhenua's systems.

I am therefore refusing your request for this FTE information under section 18(g) of the Act as the information does not exist or cannot be found.

Digital Safety Group Revenue

I am releasing to you a table with the revenue received since the 2019 financial year, listed as **Table 2** under **Appendix A**.

Digital Safety was solely Crown-funded prior to 2022, after which funding was received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as project funding, in addition to the Crown.

Digital Safety Group Expenditure

I am releasing to you a table with the actual expenditure for the Digital Safety Group since the financial year ending 30 June 2019, listed as **Table 3** in **Appendix A**.

Digital Safety Reports

I am releasing to you a table with the reports received relating to online safety over the last five years to date, listed as **Table 4** in **Appendix A**.

The reporting numbers in this table includes referrals from the public, government agencies and non-governmental organisations, in addition to the reporting webforms available.

The 2019 reporting information on Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) includes referrals to violent extremism, as the Digital Violent Extremism team was formed and finalised in 2020.

Reporting information on Online Violent Extremism report takes each hyperlink submitted as a separate report.

Reporting information on email spam for the financial years ending 2019 and 2020 (marked as 'N/A') could not be retrieved due to a server fire. Reporting information on fax spam and other harmful content does not exist as no such reports were made. I am therefore refusing your request for this information under section 18(g) of the Act.

Accessing the Ombudsman

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information on how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz. The postal address is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz.

Publishing this response

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 effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of Ministers and officials.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Cauchi'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jeremy' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Cauchi'.

Jeremy Cauchi

Tumuaki | Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability



Appendix A

Table 1: Digital Safety Group Full-time Equivalent (FTE)

Financial Year Ending	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022	30 June 2023
FTE	20.68	31.88	33.38	43.275

Table 2: Digital Safety Group Revenue

Financial Year Ending	30 June 2019	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022	30 June 2023
Revenue – Crown (\$ 000)	6,501	9,782	13,877	11,631	12,471
Revenue – Other (\$ 000)	-	-	-	137	184

Table 3: Digital Safety Group Expenditure

Financial Year Ending	30 June 2019	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	30 June 2022	30 June 2023
Expenditure (\$ 000)	6,501	9,782	13,877	12,191	11,576

Table 4: Digital Safety Group Reports Received

Year	CSAM	Online Violent Extremism	SMS Spam	Email Spam	Fax Spam	Other harmful
2019	4,973	589	2,762	N/A	-	-
2020	6,511	22	8,121	N/A	-	-
2021	9,971	411	365,841	30,286	-	-
2022	6,891	423	541,402	49,822	-	-
2023 (to 25 September)	3,216	441	242,452	35,225	-	-