

19 December 2023

Erika Whittome
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Our ref: OIA 108280

Tēnā koe Erika

Official Information Act request: COVID-19 prosecution costs

Thank you for your email of 24 November 2023 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding the cost to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) for prosecution of fines. Specifically, you requested:

Would you please share the cost to the Ministry of Justice of the prosecutions of all issued fines under the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Protection Framework) Order 2021 which have gone to the Ministry of Justice. Kindly share the total current cost of prosecutions, any appeals, hearings, submissions, appearances etc for this particular order. Kindly share the total expenditure to the court in prosecuting these fines. I would like the expenditure for 2021, 2022 and 2023 until the date when you answer this OIA.

In response to your request, the Ministry provides administrative support to the courts and is unable to determine the specific costs and expenditure for the prosecutions you have requested. This is because information is not managed to this level of detail. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds for believing it is held by another agency or Minister.

The Ministry publishes an annual report where you will find the financial operating costs which may be of interest to you. You can find this on the Ministry's website at: www.justice.govt.nz/about/about-us/corporate-publications/

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Jacquelyn Shannon
Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery