



2 May 2024

S Smith
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Our ref: OIA 111056

Tēnā koe S Smith

Official Information Act 1982 request: Legal Aid Provider Assignments

Thank you for your request to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 2 April 2024. Specifically, you requested:

- 1. Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, how many Whangarei-based Legal Aid providers have been assigned PAL 1 Legal Aid assignments in Kaitaia?*
- 2. Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, how many Whangarei-based Legal Aid providers have been paid a travel disbursement to travel to Kaitaia for PAL 1 Legal Aid assignments?*
- 3. Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, what is the total value of the travel disbursements paid to Whangarei-based Legal Aid providers for travel to Kaitaia for PAL 1 Legal Aid assignments?*

Your request has been referred to me for a response, as it falls within my responsibilities as Legal Services Commissioner.

Please note that the following data is drawn from a database that is subject to change, as new data is continually recorded and/or recoded. Additionally, for questions 2 and 3, the data provided includes the disbursements 'Travel time – necessary' and 'Travel – personal car – necessary (mileage)' only.

I can confirm that there were six Whangarei based providers who had been assigned PAL 1 assignments in the Kaitaia District Court between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.

There were five Whangarei based providers who have claimed travel disbursements when travelling to Kaitaia District Court to undertake work on a PAL 1 assignment between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. The total value paid for these travel disbursements during this period was \$72,127.82 (excluding GST).

Information about provider travel disbursements can be found on pages 127 – 131 of the Legal Aid Grants Handbook by going to - justice.govt.nz/about/lawyers-and-service-providers/legal-aid-lawyers/legal-aid-provider-manuals/grants-handbook/

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at media@justice.govt.nz.

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 Ombudsman may be contacted by phone on 0800 802 602 or by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Baguley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracey Baguley
Legal Services Commissioner