

22 April 2024

J Bythell

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Mālō 'e lelei J Bythell

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA055-2023/24)

On 6 April 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to the Ministry's financial appropriation and restructure. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses below.

1. *Is your department at risk of overspending its financial appropriation this year? If it is yes:*
 - a. *all correspondence with and information supplied to Treasury about this*
 - b. *all correspondence with and information supplied to your Minister and your Minister's office about this*
 - c. *all correspondence with and information supplied to the Public Services Commission about this*
 - d. *all correspondence with and information supplied to the Auditor-General or his office about this*
 - e. *all papers to or considered by your leadership team about this*
 - f. *all papers to or considered by your risk and audit committee about this*
 - g. *all papers to or considered by any other of your governance groups about this*

I can confirm that the Ministry is not at risk of overspending against its appropriations.

2. *Have you set aside an allowance in this financial year for redundancies or other costs of restructuring?*
 - a. *If so, how much is that allowance?*
 - b. *If not, do you anticipate any costs for these in this financial year?*

In response to the Government's fiscal sustainability goals for agencies to identify savings, the Ministry is working through options with staff which include significant changes to our organisational structure. Accordingly, the Ministry plans to manage redundancies and restructure changes by incurring costs within its current appropriated baseline.

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As this work is currently under active consideration, I am withholding all information relating to the current organisational change under section 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials. I am satisfied that there are no other public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information withheld under section 9 of the OIA available.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: oa_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Mālō 'aupito

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, sweeping strokes that form a cursive, somewhat abstract shape.

Danilo Coelho de Almeida
Deputy Secretary
Corporate Services