



Te Tari Taiwhenua Internal Affairs

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11 June 2024

T A Holden
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Tēnā koe T A Holden

Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA2324-0986

Thank you for your Official Information request of 17 May 2024 requesting the following information from Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *I am requesting the full cost of the inquiry led by RDC group that was released online at [www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/DIA-Passport-Assurance-Review/\\$file/DIA-Passport-Assurance-Review-May-2024.pdf](http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/DIA-Passport-Assurance-Review/$file/DIA-Passport-Assurance-Review-May-2024.pdf).*
2. *I would also like to know any other costs (both external and internal costs - including an approximate estimation of staff time spent) linked to this inquiry, as well as*
3. *Any communications from Minister van Velden regarding the issuing of the passport related to DJ Fred Again*

Public trust and confidence are paramount to the Department, especially in regard to services provided for New Zealanders. The report, *Independent assurance review: Management of an urgent passport application* was commissioned to provide the necessary assurances that normal processes were followed in the processing of a passport application, and to uphold the public trust and confidence we are committed to maintaining.

Response to your request

For clarity I have numbered the parts of your request for response.

Question one

The cost of the report was \$50,800.00. This was paid for actual hours worked and at a rate in accordance with the RDC Group's All-of-Government contract.

Question two

I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act. The Department does not hold a record of the time spent by staff linked to the *Independent assurance review*.

Question three

I have interpreted your request as communication from Minister van Velden to officials at the Department.

There are two documents in scope of your request, enclosed as **Appendix A**. Please note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Access to the Ombudsman

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of my decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz

Nāku noa, nā



Karen Hope-Cross
Director Office of the Chief Executive

Appendix A

#	Document name	Document date	Decision	Relevant section/s of the Act
1	Text Messages: Paul James	27 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
2	Text Messages: Paul James	27/28 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)