

5 September 2024

By email: fyi-request-27974-d0e1baa1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Sam

I refer to your request for information dated 8 August 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested:

- “1. How much did the University of Otago spend on clock batteries in the past financial year?*
- 2. Does the University of Otago continue to replace clock batteries in lecture theatre clocks?*
- 3. How many service requests has the University of Otago received year to date to replace clock batteries?”*

Please see below our response to your request.

1. How much did the University of Otago spend on clock batteries in the past financial year?

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act. We note that the University’s financial systems do not classify the reason for purchasing batteries, including whether they are for a clock or not.

In order to fulfil this part of your request, our staff would need to firstly review each transaction over the past financial year that referenced or included batteries. Then, our staff would need to contact each department and/or staff member who was responsible for each purchase and ask them to confirm whether the purpose of the purchase was for replacing clock batteries (noting that we also use batteries in many other things such as tools, remotes, controllers, radios, torches, cameras, wireless computer accessories etc.). There is no one unit responsible for replacing clock batteries on campus – departments are able to change clock batteries within their offices and study spaces, whereas our Property Services Division may assist with the replacement of clock batteries in multi-use or specialised spaces.

In addition, we also note that there would be instances where a particular department may have purchased a pack of batteries for a number of uses, and therefore calculating expenditure directly towards clocks, versus expenditure that went to other devices would be an extensive manual process. Such an undertaking is not practically possible.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to your request would help, as required by section 18A of the Act. We do not consider that either option would remove the impact that supplying the information would have on our other operations.

2. Does the University of Otago continue to replace clock batteries in lecture theatre clocks?

Yes, the University continues to replace clock batteries in lecture theatre clocks as required. We also note that the University still has a number of powered clocks on campus, but as these clocks and components of their power supplies fail, the interim solution has been to temporarily or permanently replace them with battery clocks.

3. How many service requests has the University of Otago received year to date to replace clock batteries?

The University's Property Services Division has received one request to-date in 2024 that specifically mentions clocks requiring new batteries.

I trust that this information is helpful. If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Ngā mihi



Kelsey Kennard
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator
Office of the Registrar and Secretary to the Council