

17 February 2025

James

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Tēnā koe James

Official Information Act (OIA) request: Final cost of Independent Investigation and Assurance Review of Allegations of Misuse of 2023 Census Information

On 20 January 2025, you contacted Stats NZ requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Under the OIA, please provide the final cost of the recent investigation by Doug Craig/RDC.*
- *If this is not possible due to a final invoice not being submitted, please provide the costs to date.*
- *As this matter is in the public eye and of high interest can this request please be treated as urgent.*

To date, the cost of the investigation by Doug Craig of RDC Group Limited is \$186,017.46 excluding GST. In addition, the cost of external legal services is \$54,513.78 excluding GST.

The initial investigation was due to conclude in late July 2024 but was extended due to the complexity of the case and the need to liaise with multiple parties, and to coordinate with the related Public Service Commission Inquiry being led by Michael Heron KC and Pania Gray. The costs cover work from June to December 2024. Invoiced work included the review and analysis of a large volume of documents and information, interviewing and engaging with the multiple parties and agencies, legal advice and reviews, compiling and writing the report, and an extensive natural justice process.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact Stats NZ at: OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

It is Stats NZ's policy to proactively release its responses to official information requests where possible. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Stats NZ website. Publishing responses creates greater openness and transparency of

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government decision-making and helps better inform public understanding of the reasons for decisions.

Ngā mihi nui, nā



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