

28 August 2015

K Holdaway
fyi-request-3009-6cf00fab@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear K Holdaway

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request of 1 August 2015, made through the FYI website. You requested the following (which I have numbered for convenience):

- 1. In the last three years, what's the annual total cost incurred by the agency responding to OIA requests?*
- 2. In the last three years, how is servicing OIA requests funded?*
- 3. Please provide copies of any appropriations and unit budgets with respect to OIA functions.*
- 4. In the last three years, how many staff does your agency have dedicated to respond to OIA requests — and what are their titles, seniority, salaries, travel costs, training or personal/professional development costs?*
- 5. In the last three years, what's been the most expensive/costly individual OIA request each year?*
- 6. Please provide copies of any delegations of powers under the OIA issued to individual staff in the last three years?*
- 7. What has been the cost/time responding to this OIA request?*

I must refuse the parts 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA, as we do not hold this information. This is because servicing OIA requests is considered part of Inland Revenue's usual business and does not have a separate budget appropriation.

Question 4: Staff dedicated to responding to OIA requests

We do not have any staff who work solely or mostly on OIA requests.

Inland Revenue has a Government and Executive Services team whose primary role is to provide support to the office of the Commissioner and the office of the Minister of Revenue. As part of this role, the team coordinates responses to National Office OIA requests on behalf of Inland Revenue.

Inland Revenue takes its obligations under the OIA seriously. We expect all staff to be aware of the OIA and to have levels of knowledge and understanding appropriate to their role.

Question 6: Delegations of powers

The power to make decisions on OIA requests is delegated to various positions, rather than to individual staff members.

I must refuse your request for copies of delegations of powers under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

It may help if I explain that such powers are delegated to many different positions across the department's business groups. In addition, the release of most information that Inland Revenue holds is governed by the secrecy obligation in section 81 of the Tax Administration Act 1994. This means that further delegations are required for decisions on release of information covered by section 81.

Right of review

This fully covers the information you requested.

If you disagree with my decision, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review it. The office of the Ombudsmen can be contacted at PO Box 10152, The Terrace, Wellington 6143.

Alternatively, you may have the decision reviewed by an internal review officer. Choosing the internal right of review does not preclude you from subsequently seeking a review by the Ombudsman should you remain dissatisfied. If an internal review is sought, please write to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, PO Box 2198, Wellington 6140, setting out the details of your complaint.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CG', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christina Goodall
Team Manager, Government and Executive Services