



DOIA 1718-0145

Pine Tree
via fyi.org.nz

30 August 2017

Dear Pine Tree

OIA requests for information related to a trip by MBIE staff to the Australian Research Council, and the Investment Management System replacement project

Thank you for your requests of (date) under the Official Information Act (1982) for the following information:

Request 1: "The international travel amounts reported by Cherie Marshall in her response to Australian Research Council/ICT Team about RMS OIA differ from those reported by MBIE to the NZ Government. The total reported to the NZ government was a \$6481.00. Cherie Marshall claims that only \$5674.39 was spent. "The total expenditure for the trip, including economy flights for all the officials was \$5,674.39 (NZD)" "MBIE requires all officials travelling on Ministry business to file expense reconciliations". Could you provide the copies of the expense reconciliations for all three personal who travelled. Could you explain the variation in accomodations costs and other expenses between the three personal who travelled.

Request 2: Cherie Marshall stated in her response to the OIA about Australian Research Council/ICT team about RMS that the purpose of the trip was to "The purpose of the trip was to look at an Investment Management System equivalent application used to manage science research funding and to learn the success factors in their system improvement project. At the time we were reviewing whether to retain or replace our existing IMS system and the trip helped with our planning." At this time MBIE had an RFP on GETS for a "to replacing their existing Investment Management System (IMS)". MBIE had already reported to the NZ Government that they were undertaking an ICT Project Investment Management System (IMS) Replacement - Replacement of Grants and IMS. Cost \$1,493,100. The project commenced in July 2015 and will be completed in December 2017. Why were MBIE still deciding whether to retain or replace our existing IMS system when an RFP had already been issued Will the Investment Management System (IMS) Replacement be implemented in December 2017. What is the status of this project, the current cost and project cost on completion. Was any of the 3 personal who travelled involved in the evaluation of the RFP and did this influence their decision to chose Single Cell".

Regarding Request 1, regrettably the difference between the annual review figure and the figure in the previous response to you is because of errors made in adding up information across multiple documents (for example, adding Australian and New Zealand dollars together, and not including additional fees). Rather than reconcile every difference, we provide to you this updated table of expense for this trip.

(\$NZ)	Project Manager	Manager	Sector Manager	TOTAL		
Flights	828.20	828.20	828.20	2484.60		
	435.75	435.75	435.75	1307.25	3791.85	
Accommodation	540.93	525.75	521.08	1587.76	1587.76	
Cash expenses	205.29	166.09	308.94	680.32	680.32	6059.93
Fees - New Booking Fee Consultant	22.29	22.29	22.29	66.87		
FX processing fee	10.00	10.00	10.00	30.00		
International charge back fee	20.00	20.00	20.00	60.00	156.87	6216.80

The total expense MBIE incurred for this trip was \$6,216.80. You will note that it is less than the figure reported in the annual review. Because the difference appears in the other expenses, we think there may unfortunately have been double counting in the figures released with the annual review.

As requested I am releasing the expense reconciliations and itineraries that this information is drawn from. Some information is withheld under Section 9 (2) (a) of the Act. The reconciliation documents do not include the fees. The variations in accommodation and other costs between the three MBIE staff on this trip were because they stayed in differently rated rooms and they paid for different meals, taxis and other sundry expenses, rather than splitting everything three ways.

Regarding Request 2, as noted in our previous response to you (DOIA 1617-1001), the purpose of the trip was to look at an IMS equivalent application used to manage science research funding and to learn the success factors in their system improvement project. At the time of this trip, MBIE had decided to replace its IMS, but had not yet determined if there was a suitable solution in the market and had not seen the response to the RfP. The Australian Research Council RMS is a bespoke application that was not for sale or lease, and it was not scoped as an option for IMS replacement.

One of the MBIE staff who travelled to the ARC was involved in the evaluation of the RfP, but the trip was not part of the evaluation process and did not influence the decision to select Single Cell.

The IMS replacement project is in the process of being closed because detailed work has revealed that the proposed solution was not suitable for grants. IMS replacement will not be implemented by December 2017. The project is still proceeding and is focussed on business improvement, prior to going back to market for an IT system to replace IMS. The current cost of this project is \$1.805 million.

You may appeal my decision to withhold information under the Act by writing to the Ombudsman, whose contact is:

info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143

Yours sincerely



Cherie Marshall
 Manager, Investment Operations
 Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Enclosed: Itineraries and expense reconciliations for ARC/RMS visit, Canberra March 2016