



15 FEB 2018

Tom Williams
Fyi-request-7139-61ee9b62@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Tom

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA):

"Can you please tell me what it has cost the Ministry to respond to all requests made on behalf of the Tax Payers Union or by Jordan Williams over the current and previous 2 financial years.

Can you break this information down by financial year and into staff time and materials cost."

Your request has been considered under the OIA.

In 2013/14 the Ministry of Education established the Government, Executive and Ministerial Services (GEMS) team. The GEMS team supports the Ministry in meeting its obligations under the Official Information, Privacy and Ombudsman Acts, as well as supporting Ministers, the Secretary and Deputy Secretaries, to quickly respond to correspondence and other information requests received from the public.

Since its establishment, the GEMS team has centralised Official Information, Privacy and Ombudsman Act responses, Ministerial and Executive correspondence and other associated functions from across the Ministry. The staffing of the GEMS team is not broken down by Ministry and Minister work, nor are individual pieces of work time costed. The Ministry is therefore not able to calculate the cost of responding to individual requests under the OIA, including staff time and material costs. As such we are refusing your request under section 18(e) of the OIA on the basis that the information requested does not exist.

I can advise that since 2015 the Ministry has responded to 13 requests for information from the Taxpayers Union.

I trust the information is of assistance. Should you have any further queries, I would ask you to contact Simon Sanders, Manager, Government, Executive Ministerial Services, at simon.sanders@education.govt.nz. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Emily Fabling
Deputy Secretary
Strategy, Planning and Governance