



22 March 2022

Ref: DOIA 2122-1664

Privacy of natural persons

Email: Privacy of natural persons

Tēnā koe Privacy of natural persons

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2022 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. I would like to request the number of Official Information Act requests received by MBIE in the past five years.*
- 2. Can this please be broken down into the numbers of requests made by members of the media and by members of the public.*
- 3. I would also like to know how many of these requests were approved - I don't need the reasons they were rejected.*
- 4. Can I also please be given the number of employees who are employed to respond solely to Official Information Act requests and their combined salaries - I don't need their individual salaries.*

In response to the first and second parts of your request please find below a table of the Departmental Official Information Act (DOIA) requests received by MBIE in the last five years.

Financial Year	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Total DOIAs received	2,834	1,743	1,669	1,612	1,659
DOIAs received from Public	1,713	736	637	366	
DOIAs received from Media	309	184	224	202	

Please note that DOIAs received by media are identified through the incoming communication – i.e., if someone does not identify themselves as being part of a media organisation, it is likely that their request would not appear in these figures. It also involves manually recording this into our workflow system and, as such, may not be a comprehensive list. DOIAs received by the public are those which have not been identified as being from an organisation, political party, Member of Parliament, law firm or Council.

With regard to the number of DOIAs received from members of the public and media for the year 2016/17 – this information was not consistently recorded in our system and therefore we cannot provide relevant figures without manually reviewing all DOIAs. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request

under section 18(f) of the Act, that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

We have interpreted the third part of your request to relate to DOIA requests which were granted (with and without redaction) or refused under the Act. Our system does not centrally record whether a request has been granted or refused and to collate this information would require the manual review of every DOIA file, totalling over 9,500 records. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Can I also please be given the number of employees who are employed to respond solely to Official Information Act requests and their combined salaries - I don't need their individual salaries.

A centralised team of 14 people, log, assign and track information requests received by MBIE. This team also provides support across MBIE for Ministerial Servicing performance reporting and advice on Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) best practice and Parliamentary processes as well as coordinating the Ministry's Cabinet Paper proactive release programme.

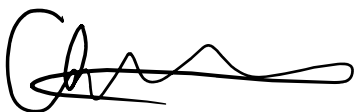
The Ministry also has dedicated Ministerial Services advisors based in many of its business groups, however these individuals may work on a range of activities in the Ministerial Servicing space; including Official Information Act requests, correspondence, written parliamentary questions, Privacy Act requests, and other activities as needed. In some areas employees, other than Ministerial Services advisors, will respond to DOIAs. The Ministry does not record the amount of time dedicated to responding to DOIAs.

Therefore, I am refusing part four of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, that the information does not exist.

For information about our Ministerial Services staff in previous years, please refer to MBIE's response to questions for the 2019/20 Annual Review: www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCED_EVI_119680_ED8677/573aa78d1133b7e199cc955f8a98fdd63723512c.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Claire Mortimer
Manager – Strategy, Performance & Operations
Ngā Pou o te Taumarau