


OC240088

4 March 2024



Tēnā koe 

I refer to your email dated 1 February 2024, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Under the OIA, I request the following information:

- 1.*
 - a) Details of the Largest Contracts: Please provide information on the largest contracts that the Ministry has entered into with external suppliers for each year from 2018 to the present. So a list of top 10 contracts, ranked by financial value for each individual financial year (starting with 2017/18, aka FY2018).*
 - b) Please also include a top 10 list for the entire 2018-2023 period, ranked in terms of total spend of department with that supplier. I request this to ensure that a supplier that has numerous small contracts will also be represented in the response.*
 - c) So a total of six lists please.*
- 2. Scope of the Information: For each contract, please include the following details:*
 - Name of the external supplier.*
 - The financial value of the contract.*
 - The duration of the contract.*
 - A brief description of the goods or services provided under the contract.*
 - Any other relevant information that provides a comprehensive understanding of the contract's scope and significance.*
- 3. Format of the Response: I would appreciate if the information could be provided in an Excel spreadsheet, for ease of analysis and accessibility”.*

The following documents fall within the scope of your request and are enclosed as one spreadsheet with two sheets:

1. Largest contracts within year 2017-2023
2. Top 10 Suppliers by spend 2020-2023

Certain information in relation to these contracts is withheld under section 9 of the Act for the following reasons:

To protect the privacy of natural persons (9(2)(a): the names of individual contractors retained by a recruitment agency and subsequently contracted to the Ministry have been removed from the description of goods or services column.

To protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information (9(2)(b)(ii): contract descriptions that would reveal the specific costs of a suppliers' goods or services on a per hour or per item basis have been reviewed and edited as applicable.

Regarding the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding the information at this time are not outweighed by public interest considerations that would make it desirable to make the information available.

In relation to the information provided, the following information provides context:

1. Largest contracts within year 2017-2023

- This is an extract from the Ministry's contact management and invoicing system, which was introduced in 2020, information prior to January 2020 has been compiled from manual sources.
- The column Total Financial Value of Contract is the ex-GST value at the time of signing, effectively the maximum paper value of the contract, and may not align with actual payments made due to changing priorities or deliverables. This contract value covers the entire duration of the contract, not just the year the contract started in.
- The duration column is the time in months between the recorded contract start and end dates of the contract.
- The type of contract field has been included as other relevant information to indicate where the Ministry engaged in contracts under All of Government panels or similar.

2. Top 10 Suppliers by spend 2020-2023

- The Ministry's current payment and contracts system was introduced in 2020, we are unable to provide payment information prior to 1 January 2020.
- This is a consolidated list by supplier of actual payments made (less any credits paid to the Ministry) and may not match the paper value of the contracts as shown in the request for largest contracts (sheet 1).

3. Type of supplier

Aside from the contracts and spend common to agencies and ministries (such as information technology, and property), the Ministry has contracts in place for some specific specialist functions for which the Ministry is responsible for. For example:

- Contract descriptions referencing Aerodrome refers to Milford Sound Piopiotahi Aerodrome in Fiordland National Park. The aerodrome is owned by Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport on behalf of the Crown.
- Contract descriptions referencing NZSAR refers to The New Zealand Search and Rescue Secretariat who support the NZ Search and Rescue Council, and are based within the Ministry.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Green', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Green
Chief Legal Advisor & Procurement Manager,
Legal and Procurement