


OC240350

30 April 2024



Tēnā koe 

I refer to your email dated 3 April 2024, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“I am writing to request information regarding the expenditure on Public Relations (PR) and Communications support by the Ministry of Transport (MT). My request is detailed as follows:

Please provide a breakdown of the actual and budgeted expenditure on PR and Communications support for the current financial year, as well as the previous two financial years, for MT.

For each instance of expenditure on PR and Communications support, please indicate whether the services were procured through an open tender process or if it was a closed process. In accordance with the principles of the Official Information Act, I seek to understand the transparency and competitiveness of the procurement process.

Please provide the names of the companies, agencies, or individuals that received payment for providing PR and Communications services to the MT. Additionally, I request the value of the contracts awarded to each service provider.

The objective of this request is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the MT investment in PR and Communications support, the processes by which these services are procured, and the entities that are engaged in providing these services.”

The information requested is provided in the table below:

		2023/24		2022/23		2021/22	
	Procurement process	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Senior Communications Advisor (COVID 19 comms) - contract	Direct source contract under AoG recruitment services via Momentum	-		-		\$82,296	\$66,720

Senior Advisor Online Channels - contract	Direct source contract under AoG recruitment services via Momentum	-		-		\$112,532	\$68,028
Scenario – design and publications	Direct source contract under AoG Design Services	-	\$44,123	-	\$102,660		\$143,027

Certain information is withheld under the following sections of the Act:

9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons	The names of the two self-employed contractors have been withheld.
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With regard to 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.

The Ministry of Transport does not have in-house design and publications resource. We outsource this work to Scenario as a more flexible and cost-effective option than employing an in-house team.

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

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā



Suzanne Cookson
Manager of Communications and Engagement