

20-D-00027

s 9(2)(a)

Reporter, New Zealand Herald
s 9(2)(a) @nzherald.co.nz

Dear s 9(2)(a),

Thank you for your email of 10 January 2020 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Can you please provide the below information, ideally in table format, for each of the past five years 2015-2019:

1. *the number of sexual harassment allegations received*

Since 2015 the Ministry has received only one allegation of sexual harassment. This allegation was in 2017 and was subsequently retracted by the complainant and revised to a complaint of harassment of a non-sexual nature.

2. *the number of sexual harassment allegations which were laid as formal complaints*

Nil

3. *the number of internal investigations into sexual harassment allegations*

Nil

4. *the number of external investigations into sexual harassment allegations (in some cases, a single allegation will have both internal and external investigation - it might be helpful to note somewhere if this was the case to avoid double counting)*

Nil

5. *the number of sexual harassment allegations which were upheld / substantiated / proved / found likely to be true*

Nil

6. *the number of mediated settlements resulting from sexual harassment allegations*

Nil

7. *the number of other types of settlements or resolutions resulting from sexual harassment allegations*

Nil

8. *the amount of financial compensation included in those settlements*

Nil

9. *whether those settlements included a confidentiality agreement or non-disclosure agreement (note: the standard MBIE mediation under section 149 of the Employment Relations Act includes a confidentiality clause, please state if the settlement was the MBIE settlement)*

Nil

The Ministry has a zero tolerance on bullying, harassment in any form and discrimination. The Ministry provides information to our employees on what is defined as bullying, harassment and discrimination, with examples and set responsibilities of all parties. We promote a speaking up culture, and have a clear process for how to raise concerns, protect confidentiality, and investigate independently. This information is easily accessible to all of our employees.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Neil Hurley
Director, People Experience