



13 May 2025

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 10 April 2025 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. The total amount spent by your department on Microsoft Office licences or subscriptions for the most recent financial year (1 July to 30 June).*
- 2. A brief description of what this cost covers (e.g. number of users, types of licences, etc.).*
- 3. A list of Microsoft products or services (e.g. Outlook, Teams, OneDrive, SharePoint, Azure) currently in use within the organisation.*
- 4. The number of staff or users currently covered by Microsoft licensing.*
- 5. Whether any core business systems (e.g. document management, internal comms, project management, data storage) are hosted or run through Microsoft platforms (such as SharePoint, Azure, or Teams).*
- 6. Details of any enterprise agreements or long-term contracts with Microsoft, including the duration and renewal dates.*
- 7. Whether there are any significant non-Microsoft alternatives used in the organisation (e.g. Google Workspace, Zoom, Slack, Dropbox), and if so, for what purpose.*

The Ministry has provided the response to each of your questions below.

1. The total amount spent by your department on Microsoft Office licences or subscriptions for the most recent financial year (1 July to 30 June).

In the current financial year (2024/2025), the Ministry has spent \$1,111,000 on Microsoft licenses and/or subscriptions as of 6 May 2025.

2. A brief description of what this cost covers (e.g. number of users, types of licences, etc.).

The Microsoft License Agreement covers desktop licensing for:

- Microsoft Windows Operating Systems
- Microsoft Office and Client Access Licenses
- Enterprise software for Microsoft Windows Server Exchange
- SharePoint

- SQL Server database
- Cloud enterprise solutions such as Office 365 and Azure public cloud.

This cost is broken down as follows:

Microsoft Product	Type of license	Number of users
M365	E5	875
M365 (No MS Teams)	E5	140
Teams Enterprise	MS Teams Enterprise	140
Teams Room Pro	Teams Room	6
Copilot	E5 Copilot add-on	5
Project	Plan 3	2
Visio	Plan 2	35
Defender for endpoint server	Azure public cloud.	57

3. A list of Microsoft products or services (e.g. Outlook, Teams, OneDrive, SharePoint, Azure) currently in use within the organisation.

- M365 Apps including Office apps
- Exchange
- Power Platform apps
- SharePoint Online
- MS Teams
- Viva products included in E5
- Purview
- Entra ID
- Intune
- Project
- Visio
- Copilot
- Defender

4. The number of staff or users currently covered by Microsoft licensing.

All staff at the Ministry are currently covered by Microsoft licensing.

5. Whether any core business systems (e.g. document management, internal comms, project management, data storage) are hosted or run through Microsoft platforms (such as SharePoint, Azure, or Teams).

Microsoft 365 Enterprise (tools including SharePoint, MS Teams, Office apps, Outlook, Purview) is the Ministry's core platform for document management, internal communications (intranet) and compliance.

User (including guest users) and group management is managed using Entra ID (Azure cloud and on premises services).

6. Details of any enterprise agreements or long-term contracts with Microsoft, including the duration and renewal dates.

The Ministry is using the All-of-Government Microsoft Enterprise agreement through the Department of Internal Affairs, this is a 3-year term from Oct 2024 through to Sept 2027

The Ministry also has a Microsoft Unified support agreement in place that has run from May 2024 to May 2025. This agreement has been re-signed recently, to run from May 2025 to September 2027. This support package gives us direct access to Microsoft to help resolve any issues we encounter in using their products and services.

7. Whether there are any significant non-Microsoft alternatives used in the organisation (e.g. Google Workspace, Zoom, Slack, Dropbox), and if so, for what purpose.

- Planview (alternative to MS Project)
- Salesforce CRM (alternative to Dynamics)
- TechnologyOne FMIS (alternative to Dynamics)
- Snowflake (alternative to Azure)
- AWS (alternative to Azure)
- Mural (alternative to Whiteboard)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision 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 Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Gemma Seddon

Acting General Manager – Information Technology
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao