



OIAD-1232

24 September 2024

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 27 August 2024 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Since 2018: How many individual contractors did the ministry hire that were previous employees of the ministry? Please provide the following additional information:

- 1. A breakdown including: past employees within previous six months; within previous year; within previous two years; over two years*
- 2. Contract start and end date*
- 3. Contract price*
- 4. A brief summary of the work produced by each contractor.*
- 5. Please explain the relationship between past experience at the ministry and contract work done*

From 2021 to today, the Ministry can confirm that no contractors were previous employees of the Ministry. The Ministry follows a policy where any previous employee must be stood down for over 12 months before returning as a contractor. Furthermore, we aim to never re-employ previous employees as contractors but rather as fixed term workers when required.

There was one case in 2021 where an error was made in the screening process that allowed a former employee to return as a contractor. This issue was picked up on their first day and they were off-boarded and completed no work on behalf of the Ministry.

To provide the information for the time period from 2018 to 2021, the Ministry would need to locate old records that are likely unusable and cross reference these to every employee that the Ministry has had during this time period. Therefore, we must refuse this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

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 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.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tracey Kaio', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tracey Kaio,
General Manager - People and Capability
Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao