



OIAD-486

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 29 November 2022 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1) *How much has the Ministry for the Environment spent on consultants/external agencies in 2022?*
- 2) *Which consultants/agencies were paid the most amount by the Ministry for the Environment in 2022? How much was that? What did they do?*
- 3) *How many staff were employed in the area of graphic design? How much is the total salary cost? How much was spent on external design consultants/agencies in 2022?*
- 4) *How much has been spent on polling, focus groups, market research in 2022? What was the focus of this research?*

The Ministry for the Environment is providing you with information in response to your request attached as **Appendix A**.

Some information has been withheld under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information will soon be publicly available.

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 Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Arun Patel,
Director – Finance and Performance

Appendix A:

1. How much has the Ministry for the Environment spent on consultants/external agencies in 2022?

For the 2022 calendar year, the Ministry has reported \$26.369m of Contractor and Consultant spend through to 30 September 2022. Full calendar year spend information will be available following next quarterly reporting, due 13 February 2023.

Full Financial Year expenditure on Contractors and Consultants is published publicly within the Ministry's Annual Report. Further detailed information on Contractor and Consultant spend is published publicly through the Annual Review Select Committee.

For the 2021/22 Financial Year this will be available on the parliament website from late February 23. The Public Service Commission (PSC) also reports publicly on their website, on Contractor and Consultant Spend across the public sector.

The Ministry interprets Contractors and Consultants expenditure in-line with guidance provided by the PSC.

2. Which consultants/agencies were paid the most amount by the Ministry for the Environment in 2022? How much was that? What did they do?

The Ministry is refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is soon to be publicly available.

The Ministry does not report on detailed contractor and consultant spend based on calendar year. Full details of contractor and consultant spend is provided annually, aligned to the Financial Year, with the release of annual review information, scheduled for release on late February.

3. How many staff were employed in the area of graphic design? How much is the total salary cost? How much was spent on external design consultants/agencies in 2022?

The Ministry employs two staff members who work on graphic design as part of their roles with a total salary of \$166,460.

The Ministry estimates that 10% – 30% of their time is spend on graphic design.

The total amount spent on external graphic design in the 2022 calendar year was \$223,485.

4. How much has been spent on polling, focus groups, market research in 2022? What was the focus of this research?

The Ministry spent a total of \$93,500 on market research. The market research included an annual consumer awareness survey and a 'farmers deep dive'.