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Thank you for your email of 7 December 2022 to the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Please provide a list of every team building exercise your department has had over the last 2 years. For each exercise, please explain what it was, how many staff were involved, and what kind of staff it involved (interns/executives, etc.).*
- *For clarification, “team building” refers to any event or exercise where staff participate to create a sense of togetherness or to get to know each other. They may be referred to by a different name at your department, so please outline this in your response. Examples may include but not be limited to the following: treasure hunt, movie night, initiation party, laser tag, etc.*
- *Please provide the total cost of all team building exercises organized for staff at your department over the last 2 years. Please break this down for each team building exercise. Costs should include but not be limited to the following: travel expenses, catering, venue hire, entertainment, staff hours, accommodation, organizing, consulting, etc.*
- *Also, please provide any costs budgeted for future team building events yet to be completed.*

The Ministry is unable to accurately separate expenditure on team building exercises due to the way this expenditure is recorded in our finance system. Information that outlines how much the Ministry for the Environment has spent on internal conferences and seminars, staff retreats, offsite training, or planning and teambuilding exercises, including travel costs, and the purpose of each is reported in our Annual Review submissions which are publicly available on the Parliament website.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response 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](http://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](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

Laura Dixon  
**Director - People and Capability**