



S9(2)(a)

Dear S9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 17 May 2023 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I have separated your request into two parts for ease of responding.

Part one

The total number of staff from the Ministry for the Environment that were seconded to support the Associate Minister for the Environment (Kiritapu Allan) as a Private Secretary in the period from 6 November 2020 to 1 February 2023, and for each Private Secretary (listed as “Person 1”, “Person 2”, etc – I do not require identifying details) please provide:

- *the start date of their secondment to the Ministers’ office*
- *the end date of their secondment to the Ministers’ office*
- *the period of their secondment as it was first agreed*

Part two

- *if the secondment was terminated earlier than agreed, the reason for early termination*
- *the total value across all secondees of any dismissal pay or compensation awarded for early termination*

The total cost of all legal and mediation fees, if any, that have been incurred in relation to any secondment to the Ministers’ Office

Whether any personal grievances have been raised by any secondee against the Minister or anyone within the Ministers’ Office (I do not require any identifying details – only the number of personal grievances) and for each personal grievance please detail:

- *if the personal grievance is still active or if it is now resolved*
- *if the Employment Relations Authority was involved*

A copy of any correspondence that refers to complaints or concerns that have been raised in relation to the Ministers’ behaviour or conduct towards a secondee that has been raised with any member of your senior leadership team.

Details of any knowledge that you, the Chief Executive, possess in relation to any concerns or complaints that have been raised about the Ministers’ behaviour or conduct towards a secondee.

In response to part one please refer to the table below.

Name	Start date	Original end date	Actual end date	Reason for end of secondment
Person 1	20/07/2022	30/11/2023	01/02/2023	Secondment with Minister Allan ended due to changes in Ministerial portfolio responsibilities
Person 2	1/11/2021	1/11/2022	27/06/2022	Ended early due to an internal appointment into a new role
Person 3	31/01/2021	28/01/2022	15/02/2022	
Person 4 (Job share 0.5 FTE) (Contractor)	7/12/2020	31/03/2021	31/03/2021	
Person 5 (Job share 0.5 FTE)	7/12/2020	31/03/2021	31/03/2021	

In response to part two, a search of the Ministry for the Environment's files found no documents in scope. As such, this part is refused under section 18(e) of the Act; the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response in relation 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



Pepi Batsos
Director, Office of the Chief Executive