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proactive release

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18–901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 28421

I refer to your email of 29 November in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- *How much has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade spent on consultants/external agencies in 2022?*
- *Which consultants/agencies were paid the most amount by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2022? How much was that? What did they do?*
- *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?*
- *How much has been spent on polling, focus groups, market research in 2022? What was the focus of this research?*

We have answered your questions in turn below. Please note financial figures are exclusive of GST.

How much has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade spent on consultants/external agencies in 2022?

Information regarding expenditure related to consultants and external agencies is publicly available on page 84 of the 2021/22 Annual Report of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry). Therefore, this part of your request is refused under Section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available. The report can be accessed on the Ministry's Website at the following link:

[MFAT Annual Report 2021-22 | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.](#)

Which consultants/agencies were paid the most amount by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2022? How much was that? What did they do?

Pae (New Zealand Ltd) was paid NZD\$269,067 for a Pacific Regional Property Condition Survey and Plan. This work involved undertaking detailed inspections and condition surveys, data capture and maintenance plans of all 55 properties in the Pacific region

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?

During the 2021/2022 year the Ministry established two permanent roles in the area of graphic design. The two roles are employed in the following salary bands:

	Min	Mid	Max
Band 14	\$65,059.00	\$72,288.00	\$83,131.00
Band 16	\$81,616.00	\$96,019.00	\$10,422.00

NZD\$54,250 was spent on external design contractors during the 2021/22 year to backfill vacancies. NZD\$28,182 was spent by Embassies to contract visual design services.


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

Information regarding expenditure relating to consultants and external agencies is contained within the Ministry's Annual Review, carried out by the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee. The annual review is reported to Parliament (usually in March), and will be accessible on the New Zealand Parliament website at the following link: [Reports - New Zealand Parliament \(www.parliament.nz\)](https://www.parliament.nz/Reports). Therefore, this part of your request is refused under Section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information will soon be publicly available.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade