

3 July 2023

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OIA 28688

Tēnā koe Personal details removed for proactive release

I refer to your emails of 12 June 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- *The FTE count for Government employees or contractors, if any, who have worked in relation to the Invest Pacific initiative*
- *The cost, if any, of employee remuneration with regards to the Invest Pacific initiative?*

And:

- *How many estimated work hours, if any, have been undertaken by those either employed or contracted to work on the Invest Pacific initiative, and what has been the average cost, if any, for an hours work undertaken in relation to the InvestPacific initiative?*

We have combined your two requests for administrative convenience.

The business case for the InvestPacific initiative estimated an allocation of 0.4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for the Activity Manager over the life of the project.

The Activity Manager is employed as a Senior Advisor. Further information in relation to the costs associated with this individual is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

Other Ministry staff support the InvestPacific initiative within the course of their regular duties. Their work is not recorded as specific FTEs against the InvestPacific initiative.

The Ministry does not require staff to submit timesheets identifying the specific projects they are working on at any given time, therefore we cannot provide any further information on the number of FTEs or the costs, or average costs, of employee remuneration with regards to the InvestPacific initiative (section 18(e) of the OIA refers).

The business case for the InvestPacific initiative estimated a budget of \$2.0 million for contractors for the design and establishment phases. This allocation was to allow contractors to be employed for specialist work as needed.

The estimated number of hours for external contractors engaged to work on InvestPacific to 31 May 2023 is 900. These external contractors have been employed to provide feasibility and design support and financial, legal and audit advice for design and procurement relating to the InvestPacific initiative.

Information relating to the cost of these external contractors is publicly available in answer to Written Parliamentary Questions 15793(2023) at: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper->

[questions/written-questions/document/WQ_15793_2023/15793-2023-brooke-van-velden-to-the-minister-of-foreign](#), therefore we refuse this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, we have identified no public interest in releasing the information that would override the reasons for withholding it.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade