

12 July 2023

Requesters name redacted for proactive
release

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OIA 28710

Tēnā koe Requesters name redacted for
proactive release

I refer to your email of 30 June 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- *Total expenditure on bottled water in 2022:
Please provide the total amount spent on bottled water, including the cost of procurement, delivery and any other associated expense.*
- *Total expenditure on flowers in 2022:
Please provide the total amount spent on flowers, including any cost related to procurement, arrangements and maintenance.*

Similarly, please provide:

- *Total expenditure on bottled water from January 2023 up to and including June 2023.*
 - *Total expenditure on flowers from January 2023 up to and including June 2023.*
- If possible, I would appreciate a breakdown of the aforementioned expenditures by specific projects, programs, or categories within your department. This breakdown will aid in comprehending the context of these expenses and enable a more comprehensive analysis.*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) does purchase bottled water and flowers but such purchases are largely limited to occasions when the Ministry is hosting diplomatic and official functions. Bottled water is also provided for staff hospitality events but flowers are not provided at these events.

The Ministry's Staff Hospitality Standard notes that expenditure which is predominately private or personal will be met by staff members themselves. The Standard also notes that expenditure on flowers is not permissible for farewells, bereavements, births, illness etc.

The Ministry's financial system does not capture information relating to purchase of bottled water and flowers under separate financial codes. The collation of this information would require the manual review of a large amount of information, therefore your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA: The information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

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, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade