

5 February 2024

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release

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OIA 28983

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I refer to your email of 18 December 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. *Did the Chief Information Officer and / or her staff take any trips this year funded - including funded in part - by suppliers of MFAT?*
2. *Were the vendor or vendors at the time of the trip actively involved on RFPs or RFIs for ICT services? If so please specify.*
3. *What was the total cost of the funding for these trips for staff?*
4. *What is the total ICT spend for those vendors this year by MFAT?*

We have responded to each of your questions in order.

Question One: Yes, the Chief Information Officer and two Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) staff members travelled to attend an overseas partner vendor's sponsored conference. Whilst in-country the party visited Ministry Posts and the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO), and attended two business update workshops with the vendor at their offices. The majority of costs associated with the trip were paid by the Ministry, but some incidentals, such as conference catering, occasional meals and taxi fares, were supplied by the partner vendor.

Question Two: No, the partner vendor was not involved in any Request for Proposals (RFP) or Request for Information (RFI) for ICT services at the time of the travel.

Question Three: Ministry costs for the Chief Information Officer and the two Ministry staff members to travel to meet with the partner vendor and attend the sponsored conference, conduct business at Ministry Posts and meet with the UK FCDO, were NZD\$43,094.81 (including travel, accommodation, and incidentals over a 13-day period, with 10 business days).

Question Four: The total ICT spend with the partner vendor in the period 1 January 2023 to 30 November 2023 is NZD\$5,456,798.25.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

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