

21 September 2026

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OIA 31175

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proactive release

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Thank you for your email of 24 August 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

I am requesting information relating to individuals working within your agency through supplier, managed service, or service agreements who are not recorded or reported as contractors or consultants spending.

For the purposes of this request, I am particularly interested in arrangements where an external supplier provides a named or identifiable individual who performs work for an agency on an ongoing or full-time basis and has access to agency resources, systems, email, buildings, and or equipment:

1. *To the extent this information is held centrally, please provide the number of individuals currently:*
 - *supplied through a supplier, managed service, or service agreement*
 - *working in a role equivalent or similar to a full-time agency position*
 - *provided with access to agency systems, email accounts, buildings, equipment, or other internal resources*
 - *not classified or reported as contractors or consultants.*
2. *For the individuals captured by point 3, please provide for each individual:*
 - *the total annual or contracted cost*
 - *the length of the engagement*
 - *whether the individual works full-time or part-time for the agency.*
3. *Please identify any changes to the collection or availability of this information resulting from the implementation of new financial, procurement, HR, or reporting systems, including:*
 - *the date of any system change*
 - *what information ceased to be collected or became unavailable*
 - *whether historical information remains accessible*
 - *any known breaks in the data series.*
4. *Please provide any recent advice, correspondence, or guidance concerning individuals working within your agency who are not included in reported contractor and consultant spend because they are engaged through supplier, managed service, or service agreements.*

On 25 August 2026 you emailed to clarify part two of your request saying:

*Question 2 should say "For the individuals captured by point 1, please provide for each individual:
Apologies for the mistake.*

Please note that your 25 August 2026 clarification overwrites your 24 August 2026 request and is deemed to be a new OIA request, replacing your request of 24 August 2026 (section 15(1AA) refers).

Background

For clarity, we have set out below how your request has been interpreted:

- As part of your request you stated, *personal names are not required for the purpose of this request.*
- Your request has been interpreted to be for information relating to individuals working within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) *through supplier, managed service, or service agreements who are not recorded or reported as contractors or consultants spending* in the answers to standard questions submitted to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee (FADTC) as part of the Annual Review process.
- We have also interpreted your request to be for information relating to core Ministry functions, so have deemed contracts pertaining to International Development Cooperation (IDC) funding to be outside the scope of your request.
- The Ministry does not hold *supplier, managed service, or service agreements ... not recorded or reported as contractors or consultants* spending centrally. This information is held within each individual contract, limiting our ability to respond to your information request. We have gathered the information to respond to your request by inquiring to each of the relevant parts of the Ministry for information.
- We have interpreted your request to be for information relating to contracts that were current on 24 August 2026, the time of your OIA request.

Response to your request

In answer to part one of your request, the number of individuals working within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) through supplier, managed service, or service agreements, who are not reported through the Annual Review process in contractors or consultants spending, and whose role is equivalent or similar to a full-time position with access to Ministry buildings or equipment is 15.

In answer to part two of your request, only four of the 15 individuals identified in our response to part one of your request have contracted costs held in a way that enables us to attribute the charges to individuals as your OIA request requires. The details for these four individuals are set out in the table below. Your request for the costs of the remaining 11 individuals is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA. The contracts relating to these 11 individuals are contracts for services specifying overall service charges. This means that charges for individual resources do not exist.

Total annual or contracted cost per individual (by financial year, NZ\$)			
Individual	Financial Year 2024/2025	Financial Year 2025/2026	Financial Year 2026/2027
1	\$115,178	\$19,342	
2	\$8,212	\$11,296	
3	\$45,594	\$8,180	
4	\$33,008	\$62,670	\$5,861

Information about the length of engagement of each of these individuals is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA due to the substantial collation and research necessary to manually search through multiple statements of work (SOW) and contracts over multiple financial years. We can confirm, however, that the four individuals identified in the table above worked, or work, part-time.

In answer to part three of your request, we do not have a central contract management system. We have had to collate information to respond to this request from a variety of sources. Recent system improvements meant we have been able to identify the cost information from financial years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 provided to you in answer to part two of your request.

In answer to part four of your request, no recent advice, correspondence, or guidance in scope of this part of your request has been provided to any employees at the Ministry. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information you requested does not exist.

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



Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade