



Thank you for your email of 26 February 2019 to the States Service Commission, which was transferred to the Ministry on 11 March 2019, requesting the following information:

1. *An approximate cost estimate of the average response to an OIA request across all central government agencies including NZ Police and NZ Defence Force. This should necessarily require an averaging of:
 - a. The average wage per hour typically committed to OIA responses, multiplied by
 - b. The average number of hours committed to responding to an OIA request*

This can be expressed as: $\sum(\text{average wage}_{\text{agency}} \times \text{average number of hours}_{\text{agency}}) / \text{number of agencies}$.

1. *For the period 1 January 2017 – 1 January 2019, the number of OIA requests sent to all central government agencies including NZ Police and NZ Defence Force from or on behalf of the New Zealand Tax Payers Union.*
2. *Please also provide a narrative explaining the method used to determine the average wage and average number of hours across agencies as requested in 1a and 1b of this OIA request.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The Ministry does not capture the work time, or costs associated with responding to requests for official information. As such, I am refusing the first part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

In relation to the second part of your request, the Ministry has received and responded to 27 requests under the Act from the Taxpayers' Union since the Union was established. Of these 27, 18 were received between 1 January 2017 and 1 January 2019. Please note that our numbers are only able to count instances where Taxpayers' Union employees have used their official email address or have self-identified as employees of the Taxpayers' Union.

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

Joana Johnston
Acting Deputy Secretary
Strategy, Planning and Governance