



4 April 2019



Reference: OIA-2018/19-0481

Dear 

**Official Information Act request relating to the average costs of DPMC OIA responses and other matters**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request which was transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 11 March 2019. You requested:

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*

Information is being provided to you below in relation to information held by DPMC.

During the period of 1 January 2017 to 1 January 2019, DPMC received 11 requests from individuals identifying their request as being made on behalf of the Taxpayers' Union, or attaching a signature identifying themselves as members of the Taxpayers' Union.

To estimate an average cost of DPMC responding to requests under the Act would require the creation of new information. Therefore, I must refuse the parts of your request relating to providing a cost estimate and a narrative explaining our methodology under section 18(g) of the Act, as we do not hold the information requested and we have no grounds for believing it is held by, or more closely related to the functions of another relevant organisation in accordance with the Act.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward  
**Executive Director, Strategy Governance and Engagement**