



6 May 2020



Reference: OIA-2019/20-0475

Dear 

Official Information Act request about public sector pay cuts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 18 April 2020. You requested (numbering added):

- [1] *“We write to ask whether your organisation will fairly share the burden of the economic crunch by:*
- *cancelling all scheduled salary increases for all but frontline workers until the economy has*
 - *recovered (i.e. when quarterly GDP has returned in real terms to the that of Q4-2019); and*
 - *following many leaders in the private sector by*
 - *reducing your salary by 20 percent for the next 12 months; and*
 - *asking second-level managers (those who report directly to you) to do the same....*
- [2] *Please advise what actions your organisation is undertaking to reduce payroll costs, and whether the specific proposals above have been, or will be, implemented.”*

This response is made on behalf of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) together with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), which is a departmental agency hosted by DPMC.

Part [1] of your request as numbered above would usually be transferred to the State Services Commission (SSC) under section 14 of the Act on the basis that the information you have requested is more closely related to the SSC’s functions. However, I understand that you have made a similar request direct to the SSC and that SSC responded to this part of your request directly on behalf of all department chief executives on 29 April 2020.

For Part [2] of your request, at the time your request was received, DPMC and NEMA did not hold any information relevant to this part of your request. In addition, DPMC and NEMA have not yet considered the remuneration round for this year. On 28 April 2020, the State Services Commissioner wrote to all public service departments and departmental agencies setting out key principles and guidance on how to apply pay restraint in the public service. This letter is publicly available on the SSC website at: ssc.govt.nz/assets/Our-Work/Employment-Relations/Pay-Restraint-in-the-Public-sector-Public-Service-CEs.pdf. This is the only information held by DPMC or NEMA that is relevant to this part of your request. Accordingly,

this part of your request has been declined on the basis *“that the information requested is ... publicly available.”*

This response will be published on DPMC’s website during its 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.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email (info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement