

Reference: 20220220

20 June 2022



Dear 

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 7 June 2022.
You requested:

I would like to request the following information from your organisation, for each financial year: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and for the partial year of 2022 to date:

- 1. Number of FTE communications/media staff employed in each year (this includes all internal and external communications staff/content producers and social media staff)*
- 2. The salary range paid to communications staff in each year.*
- 3. Number of communications/media contractors used in each year.*
- 4. Total sum paid to communications contractors in each year*
- 5. A breakdown of positions and numbers employed in each role (ie how many media advisors, senior media advisors, internal communications, managers, social media producers/managers)*
- 6. How many media queries received in each year*
- 7. How many interview requests received in each year*
- 8. How many media interviews given, and to which media organisations and when.*
- 9. Total salary costs for communications staff each year*
- 10. In each year, how many communications staff paid a salary more than \$100,000 per annum and \$200,000 per annum*

Information being released

Please find below the answers to your questions.

Question 1:

For information on numbers of staff (headcount) and salaries for financial years 16/17 to 20/21, please refer to the answer provided to question 52 in the Treasury's 2020/21 Annual Review for the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee. [Treasury \(2020/21 Annual review pre-hearing questions\) - New Zealand Parliament \(www.parliament.nz\)](https://www.parliament.nz/annual-review-pre-hearing-questions)

As of 7 June 2022, we have 6 Communications staff (3 contractors and 3 employees). This represents approximately 1% of the Treasury's total headcount.

Question 2:

Given the small number of communications staff, the Treasury is unable to provide individual staff remuneration on privacy grounds. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA – *to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased people.*

Question 3:

Please refer to the answer for question 1 of this request. Note that that the Treasury does not engage contractors specifically to manage media.

Question 4:

The Treasury prefers to engage fixed term employees instead of contractors where possible. This is in line with the Public Service Commission recommendation to lift the full-time employment (FTE) cap and reduce the contractor and consultant spend, whilst increasing capability of agencies.

Please refer to the Treasury's 2020/21 Annual Review for the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee for details (Appendix 3) of contractors and consultants engaged by the Treasury over the last five financial years, including costs. For the partial financial year to date (1 July 2021 – 7 June 2022), the Treasury has paid \$365,258.75 to communications contractors, primarily to backfill staff vacancies while recruitment processes were underway.

Question 5:

Over the past few years, the operating model used to support the delivery of communications and engagement within the Treasury has changed. This had meant slight changes in resourcing requirements. However, the overall number of communications staff at any one time has not exceeded eight. These roles have usually always included a head of the function, and a range of advisors. Media is managed by an FTE staff member as part of a broader range of communications activities undertaken by this role. We do not have a designated FTE to solely manage media.

Question 6:

Year	Number of media queries
2016/17	135
2017/18	146
2018/19	171
2019 – 28 February 2020	125 (data not captured in March, April, May and June 2020 due to disruption and re-prioritisation of work during COVID-19 lock-down and response)
2020/21	199
2021 – 31 May 2022	153

Question 7:

The Treasury does not record this information. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA – *the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.*

Question 8:

The Treasury does not record this information. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA – *the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.*

Question 9:

Please refer to the answer for question 1 of this request.

Question 10:

Given the small number of communications staff, the Treasury is unable to provide individual staff remuneration on privacy grounds. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA – *to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased people.*

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely



Emma MacRae
Head of People Operations