



11 December 2024

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request
Our Ref: PSCR 2024-0070

I refer to your official information request received on 13 November 2024 where you asked:

“Please supply a table or similar format showing a breakdown of financial outgoings (and income if any) summarised over the past five years, in respect of the following:

Legal advice, work, representation or any other law-related matters, inc meetings and agreements, whether formal or not, identified as connected with the following law firms and their contractors, consultants and other partners/associates (please identify which entity the amount relates to):

- *Buddle Findlay*
- *Dentons*
- *Crown Law*

Please also provide the same breakdown for any such costs/income from any inhouse provision (if this is too small an amount to provide without risks to confidentiality, please supply totals for the five years):”

Information being released

Please find listed in the table below Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission’s (the Commission’s) financial outgoings related to legal advice, work, representation or any other law related matters for the last five years with Crown Law, Dentons and Buddle-Finlay law firms.

Also included in the table are the Commission’s internal personnel costs for the legal team for the same period. We are withholding the inhouse costs for the 2023/24 FY under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), to protect the privacy of individuals. The Commission’s information release confidentiality guidelines ensure we allow as much high value information as possible to be released, while ensuring that it is not in a form that could reasonably expect to identify an individual, or at a level of aggregation where the information is still informative. These guidelines apply to any statistical information that contains private or confidential information and therefore prevent us releasing the salary amounts.

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
In-house provision (internal personnel costs)	\$769,676	\$825,652	\$835,956	\$641,010	\$***
Crown Law	\$680,163	\$75,231	\$32,282	\$61,781	\$235,071
Dentons	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,207
Buddle-Finlay	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Enquiries@publicservice.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks

Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission