

8 March 2023

DOIA23/031

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

I refer to your request received on 9 February 2023, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), in relation to Aotearoa New Zealand Public Media work. Please find a response to each part of your request below:

1. *The total spend on the merger*
2. *The total spend on contractors and consultants*

This information will be published on the Ministry's website following receipt of final invoices. We expect this to be completed by the end of March 2023. Therefore, your request has been refused under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information you have requested will soon be publicly available.

3. *The number of hours spent on the merger broken down by hours spent on it by consultants/contractors and Ministry for Culture & Heritage staff*

We do not capture this information. This is because the Ministry does not use time recording systems, and much of the policy work on the Aotearoa New Zealand Public Media (ANZPM) Bill was considered as part of business as usual (BAU). Therefore, this information is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information you have requested does not exist.

4. *The number of Ministry for Culture and Heritage staff who were permanently working on the merger and the number of staff who will still be permanently working on the merger after the PM's announcement of the merger ending.*

We do not hold this information. Any resources, including staffing, that may be required for ongoing policy work related to the Broadcasting and Media sector will be part of BAU. Therefore, this information is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as previously defined.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oi@mch.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.

Nāku noa, nā

s9(2)(a)

Emily Fabling
Pou Mataaho o Te Aka - Deputy Chief Executive, Policy and Sector Performance