



Tēnā koe

On 1 July 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The amount of money your department/organisation has spent on the hiring of external contractors in the 2020/2021 financial year.*
- *Could you also provide details of every contract over \$10,000, including who/ which firm was hired, to do what job, and over how long of a period.*

On 6 July 2021, you clarified that the timeframe for the second part of your request was the 2020/2021 financial year.

On 21 July 2021, you changed the second part of your request to the following:

- *Could you also provide details of the top ten contracts over \$10,000 billed in the 2020/2021 financial year, including who/ which firm was hired, to do what job, and over how long of a period.*

The Ministry uses consultants or contractors to fill short-term needs where it is uneconomic to employ a staff member, or the required expertise is not available internally. A consultant is a professional entity or self-employed individual engaged to provide discrete outcomes or services, usually some form of specialised or independent advice, using their own assets and resources. Consultants are typically engaged by the Ministry under contracts that end after the delivery of the specified advice.

A contractor carries out tasks that might otherwise be performed by an employee, except when the time or skills are unavailable from existing personnel. Fixed term employees are not defined as contractors. Contractors work under the direction of Ministry managers and usually work on site, alongside staff.

In the 2020/2021 financial year, the Ministry spent approximately \$94.8 million on hiring external contractors. Please note, this is only an unpublished preliminary figure which has not yet been fully audited as the Ministry is in the process of preparing its financial information for the Annual Review, where the more accurate audited figure will be released in due course.

Regarding the top ten contracts billed to consultants and contractors in the 2020/2021 financial year, please see Table One, which details the ten largest contracts by actual cost paid by the Ministry, broken down by company, resource description, description of work, and period of work.

Table One: The ten largest contracts by actual cost paid by the Ministry, broken down by company, resource description, description of work, and period of work.

Company	Resource Description	Actual Cost FY2020-2021 (NZ\$)	Description of Work	Start Date	End Date
Fronde	Enterprise Architect	395,313	Identity Modernisation project	2/06/2020	24/09/2021
Fronde	Solutions Architect	367,950	Identity Modernisation project	7/10/2019	24/09/2021
Alpha Recruitment	System Engineer	362,253	Availability & Resilience project	24/10/2017	30/06/2022
920	Programme Manager	354,257	Data Warehouse and Identity Modernisation projects	1/04/2019	30/09/2021
Maven Consulting	Project Manager	348,000	SAS Version Upgrade for IAP Data Warehouse project	1/06/2019	31/08/2021
Talent International	Business Analyst	346,896	Te Pai Tawhiti Scaling Capacity, SAFE@MSD projects	16/10/2017	17/12/2021
Starfish Consulting	Business Analyst	344,713	Support Funds: Return from external provider to MS, SOAP – Streamlining the Online Application Process, CLIENT Related - Rent Freeze reconciliation project	9/02/2015	30/06/2022
Starfish Consulting	Developer	333,414	Transitional Housing Vacancy Management Tool (THVM), Saving Time for the Frontline (Continuous Improvement)	1/04/2020	10/12/2021
Talent International	Project Manager	330,424	Data Warehouse, Infrastructure Modernisation projects	29/02/2016	30/06/2021
Younity	Solutions Architect	329,634	Cloud Business Office Phase 2, ICM Cloud Enablement, Cloud Platform projects	25/08/2019	30/09/2022

Notes for Table One:

- The table contains unpublished preliminary data which has not yet been fully audited. The Ministry is in the process of preparing its financial information for the Annual Review, where the more accurate audited data will be released in due course.
- FY2020-2021 covers the financial period 1 July 2020 to 20 June 2021.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us regarding external contractors at the Ministry, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

P.P. 

Stephen Crombie
**Deputy Chief Executive
People and Capability**