



10 December 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 13 November 2024, requesting a breakdown of legal costs paid inhouse and to specific external law firms.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

- *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 refer to the **Appendix** enclosed with this letter which provides a table showing the amount (gross) paid to Buddle Findlay, Dentons and Crown Law, broken down by year.

- *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).*

The Ministry's Legal department (MSD Legal) does not charge back its costs directly to the business units they provide legal services to. The Ministry pays for salaried positions rather than paying for time spent on legal matters, therefore, I am refusing your request for this information under section 18(e) of the Act as it does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, 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 nui

pp.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magnus O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services



Appendix

Name	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Buddle Findlay	\$105,812.44	\$96,836.71	\$159,750.25	\$335,801.53	\$1,113,958.73	\$1,812,186.66
Crown Law	\$1,879,017.10	\$1,148,575.65	\$726,207.57	\$715,553.88	\$1,044,398.79	\$5,513,752.99
Kensington Swan Lawyers (Dentons)	\$428,116.25	\$139,837.41	\$164,004.14	\$146,854.30	\$380,682.26	\$1,259,494.36
Total	\$2,412,945.79	\$1,385,276.77	\$1,049,961.96	\$1,198,209.71	\$2,539,039.78	\$8,585,434.01