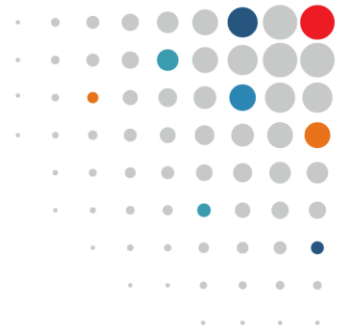




2 August 2024

9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 22 July in which you made the following request:

This is a request for official information under the under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to MBIE [sic] funding/collaboration with Unions, including but not limited to, the Public Service Association.

We request the following information:

- *A table/list of your organisation's pay bands with the Step Range (Band), Minimum and Maximum salaries (See attached for an example).*
- *A table/list of each staff member (by job title) who is permitted to spend salaried time for the purpose of union organisation, advocacy or other union activity, whether on a full time or part-time basis. Please include the number of paid hours per month permitted for such activity, the job title and the salary band (or step range band, e.g., B, D, E, F etc) for each role.*
 - *Please do not include information where the only involvement is regular staff who are union members being entitled to attend occasional union meetings.*
- *Please indicate how much money was paid to any unions by your organisation in 2022, 2023, 2024 so far, and any planned payments for the remainder of 2024. (Do not include payroll deductions of Union membership dues).*
 - *For each payment, please outline the recipient, value and purpose of the payment.*
- *Please indicate whether any Union or their staff, or any MBIE staff member employed for the purpose of union organisation or administration is permitted to use any office space owned/leased by your organisation, if so how often are they permitted to use it (ie is it on an ad hoc basis, part time (how many hours per week/month), or full time.*
 - *What is the area of the office space that Unions are permitted to use.*
 - *What rent (if any) is charged for use of the office space?*

Further to your request, we sought clarification from you on 26 July 2024 in regards to the scope of the advice. You confirmed that you were interested in formal arrangements that agencies have in place for union activities and not individual memberships.

Based on this clarification, no staff members spent salaried time for the purpose of union organisation, advocacy or other union activity. I can advise that neither the Social Investment Agency or its predecessor the Social Wellbeing Agency paid any money to unions in 2022, 2023, or 2024 and no payments are planned. Additionally, no union or their staff, or any Agency staff members have used space leased or owned by the Agency for union activities.

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 iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Anderson'.

Kirsty Anderson

Manager, Communications and Engagement