

28 June 2021

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Request for information under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email regarding our use of contractors for COVID-19 response and recovery activity. A copy of the text in your email request is attached.

The Social Wellbeing Agency does not currently undertake any direct COVID-19 response or recovery activity. The Agency did contribute to some all-of-government or agency response workstreams in early 2020, including:

- Informally or formally seconding around 30% of our people to other agencies and all-of-government response workstreams such as the National Crisis Management Centre and Ministry of Health
- Providing analytical support to the Ministry of Health and Regional Public Health (Wellington)
- Providing an intelligence function for an all-of-government welfare response.

Within this work, one contractor was informally seconded to the Official Command Centre for the National Crisis Management Centre, at an hourly rate of \$130 + GST.

In addition to this, the Agency initiated a project in early 2020 originally called Monitoring COVID-19 Recovery, a prototype product that displayed data on wellbeing-focused indicators. This project has evolved into Aotearoa Wellbeing Update, which looks broader than just COVID-19 recovery and is still in prototype phase. Please note that this response (with your personal details removed) will be proactively published on our website on 26 July 2021.

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

Nāku iti noa, nā



Gabrielle Wilson
Senior Advisor, Office of the Chief Executive

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Attachment: Copy of Official Information Act Request (dated 31 May 2021)

This OIA is re Covid recovery/response measures, and the use of contractors by your agency/dept for that

Please consider any reference to 'covid recovery' to include any work programme or similar that largely or primarily is aimed to respond to the pandemic or its impacts

Pls consider any reference to 'contractors' to mean contractors whose engagement with your dept or agency is primarily or largely related to any aspect of Covid recovery (NOT contractors in general)

For timeframes, where applicable pls provide figures per quarter. Starting point is sent by response to Covid. Pls note where it is known of any end points in use of contractors

RNZ requests release to it, in full and in fully searchable format, the following information and/or documents, in relation to your agency/dept:

1. detail of how covid recovery is being primarily undertaken, including:
2. the name of any units/teams/similar leading it, or involved in it
3. if these are new or repurposed units/teams/similar, the date when they began covid work
4. number of permanent and/or fixed term staff (not contractors) working (primarily) in any aspect of Covid recovery
5. number of contractors working
6. if available, budgeted spending on contractors of Covid recovery
7. Actual hourly or daily (or other) rates of contractors at whatever level (similar to what is provided in your Annual Reviews to select committee)
8. range of hourly or daily (or other) rates of contractors at whatever level
9. Separately, the same for consultants (if available)
10. if a contractor is in charge, or second in charge, of a Covid recovery units/teams/similar and/or work programme, pls detail all such roles
 - what that position is
 - how long they have been engaged in that role
11. if a covid recovery units/teams/similar worker numbers are more than 50% contractors, pls state and describe
12. pls detail the variation of that % over time eg up or down
13. pls detail why over 50% of such staff are contractors
14. pls detail any cases where unplanned/unexpected employee attrition or turnover has had an impact on number of contractors having to be engaged, and/or length of that engagement, and/or the seniority of position having to be filled by a contractor
15. provide a timeline in terms of when contracts wind up, or are forecast to, or when units/teams/similar/work programme winds up or is forecast to
16. any complaints received from employees, unions, contractors or the public about use of contractors or consultants in covid recovery
17. pls detail if any audit or review or similar has been or will be, or might be, undertaken re use of contractors or consultants in covid recovery