

20 DEC 2018



Thank you for your email of 19 November 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act (the Act):

- *Please provide, for the last five years, the number of sexual harassment incidents, personal grievances, complaints or otherwise where the victim/complainant has entered in to a non-disclosure agreement with your agency*
- *Please provide a total number for each year*
- *Please provide the total cost of legal fees for these agreements*

There was one sexual harassment case that included a non-disclosure clause in 2017/18 and none in the previous four years.

Housing New Zealand is unable to determine the total cost of legal fees in respect of this case. Housing New Zealand only records total annual costs of lawyers engaged by the Human Resources team. These costs relate to advice received in respect of all employment issues, including (but not limited to) advice and representation in respect of all types of complaints and personal grievances, mediation support, legal opinions on points of law, payroll compliance advice, Employment Relations Authority and Employment Court litigation, legal training, employment agreement advice and drafting, collective bargaining advice, policy drafting and review.

Therefore, I am unable to provide you with the requested information because with reference to section 18(g) of the Act *"the information requested is not held."*

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of Housing New Zealand's decision to release information. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Kelly".

Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations