

2 May 2024

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Thank you for your request to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, dated 3 April 2024, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I am writing to request information regarding the expenditure on Public Relations (PR) and Communications support by Kaingaroa. My request is detailed as follows:

Actual and Budgeted Expenditure:

Please provide a breakdown of the actual and budgeted expenditure on PR and Communications support for the current financial year, as well as the previous two financial years, for Kaingaroa.

Procurement Process:

For each instance of expenditure on PR and Communications support, please indicate whether the services were procured through an open tender process or if it was a closed process. In accordance with the principles of the Official Information Act, I seek to understand the transparency and competitiveness of the procurement process.

Service Providers:

Please provide the names of the companies, agencies, or individuals that received payment for providing PR and Communications services to Kaingaroa. Additionally, I request the value of the contracts awarded to each service provider.

The objective of this request is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Kaingaroa investment in PR and Communications support, the processes by which these services are procured, and the entities that are engaged in providing these services.

Kāinga Ora has interpreted *PR and communications support* to refer to the Kāinga Ora external communications team and external communications and public relations agencies and individuals, excluding advertising.

Your request for information relating to the two previous financial years is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is publicly available here:

- 2022/23 Annual Review [2022/23 Annual Review of Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities \(www.parliament.nz\)](http://www.parliament.nz)
- 2021/22 Annual Review [7035c8755fe3086b9d90c3d2ee09af206ca5975c \(www.parliament.nz\)](http://www.parliament.nz)

Please refer to the agency's responses to questions 52 and 72 of the Annual Review. In the 2021/22 financial year one contractor was engaged to cover an existing communications role. Kāinga Ora did not go through a tender process as there was an urgent need to fill the role at a time of high need

during the COVID-19 pandemic. The name of the individual is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of this individual outweighs any public interest in this information.

The Act requires that we advise you of our decision on your request no later than 20 working days after the day we received your request. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to meet that time limit in relation to information *for the current financial year*, and we are therefore writing to notify you of an extension of the time to make our decision on that aspect of your request, to **16 May 2024**. This extension is required because consultations necessary to make a decision on your request are such that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision on your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations