OC260570

27 July 2026

[redacted]

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport (the Ministry) on 7 July 2026 , requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"1. The total number of employees who are currently:
- on garden leave;
- on paid suspension;
- on paid special leave;
- on administrative leave with pay; or
- on any other employer-directed paid non-working arrangement under which the employee remains employed, continues to receive remuneration (whether full or partial), and has been directed not to perform some or all of their normal duties.

2. For each employee included in Question 1, please provide:
- the employment status or leave category recorded by the agency (for example, "garden leave", "paid suspension", "paid special leave", "administrative leave", or the equivalent internal classification);
- the employee's salary band or remuneration range (for example, "$100,000–$109,999", "Band J", or the agency's equivalent remuneration band); and
- the length of time the employee has been in that status, expressed in days, weeks, or months, whichever is most appropriate.

Clarification of scope

For the avoidance of doubt, this request is intended to capture all employer-directed paid arrangements where an employee remains employed but is not performing some or all of their normal duties, regardless of the terminology used by the Ministry.
Accordingly, this request includes, but is not limited to:
- garden leave;
- paid suspension;
- paid special leave;
- administrative leave with pay;
- discretionary paid leave directed by the employer; and
- any equivalent employer-directed paid non-working arrangement.

This request does **not** include employees who are absent solely because they are on:
- annual leave;
- sick leave;
- parental leave or maternity leave;
- bereavement leave;
- ACC leave;
- leave without pay; or

- any other ordinary statutory or contractual leave where the employee is absent for the purpose of taking that leave rather than because they have been directed by the employer not to perform their normal duties."

I can advise that there are no employees currently within the leave or suspension categories described in Question 1.

If you would like to discuss this decision with us, please do not hesitate to contact us at OIA@mcert.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on its website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Penman
Manager, Ministerial & Executive Services
Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport