

OC240148

18 March 2024

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

I refer to your email dated 19 February 2024, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the **OIA**):

*‘all information, papers and communications relating to the exit in recent months of your chief financial officer and the more recent exit of your acting CFO Matthew Needham.*

*‘information and communications relating to the measures put in place to fulfill the role of the CFO, including any interim arrangements and/or external contracts or contractors and the level of expertise of any internal temporary or acting personally in that role.*

*‘the cost of any contracts to fulfill the role and any severance payments made to the former and acting CFOs.’*

The principal questions you asked relate to the recent departures of the Ministry’s permanent and acting Chief Financial Officers (**CFO**) and whether any severance payments were paid. In response to these questions, the Ministry can confirm:

- Paul Laplanche was the Ministry’s permanent CFO from 2 October 2017 to 20 September 2023. Mr Laplanche resigned to further progress his career in a larger role with the New Zealand Police. No severance payment was made to him.
- Matthew Needham was engaged as a contractor to be acting CFO. This engagement was arranged through an external recruitment agency. Mr Needham commenced the role on 11 September 2023 on a contract until January 2024. This contract was subsequently extended for a short period due to operational requirements. Mr Needham’s contract ended on 9 February 2024. No severance payment was made to him.
- The Ministry engaged Deloitte Limited as external support to perform a high-level current state assessment of certain key finance deliverables and then provide support in the production of these deliverables.
- The process of appointing a new permanent CFO has been completed and an appointment to the permanent position has now been made.

The remainder of your request comprises personal and / or otherwise sensitive information and would require a considerable amount of work to compile and review. In light of the Ministry’s answer to your principal questions above, please confirm if you still require a response to the balance of your requests.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā



Suzanne Williams  
**Human Resources Manager**