



18 August 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 8 July 2025, requesting information about the size of the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry's) legal team as of 30 June 2025, 2024, and 2023?

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

Please see the table below that addresses your request.

- **Table: Ministry Legal Team staff numbers, by headcounts and Full Time Equivalents, for years as of 30 June 2025, 2024, and 2023.**

At 30 June	Headcounts	FTE
2025	56	55.5
2024	54	53.7
2023	60	59.8

Please note that the numbers provided above are for the whole Ministry Legal team, which includes both lawyers and non-lawyers. Note I am providing the "headcount" number, which is the total number of staff. However, we normally report staff numbers as a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) figure.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

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

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services