



15 May 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2025, requesting the amount spent by Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) offices on their electricity bill in the calendar month of March, for all offices around New Zealand, broken down by region and year, from 2019 to 2025.

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

Please find a breakdown of the amount spent on electricity for each Ministry office in the calendar month of March attached as an **Appendix**.

Note that in March 2022, the information provided is less than average on power costs. The reason is that in that month, the Ministry finance system transitioned to a new financial management system. As a result, some invoices that related to March 2022 were instead processed after March.

The Ministry is unable to provide you with a spend per office in the years ending March 2023 and March 2024 due to the transition to a new financial management system.

To identify those invoices, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it requires substantial collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your requests given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 regarding the spend on electricity at each Ministry office, 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

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services