



23 July 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 8 July 2026, requesting information about the size of the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry's) legal team as of 30 June 2026, 2025, and 2024.

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 2026, 2025, and 2024.**

At 30 June	Headcounts	FTE
2026	59	58.7
2025	56	55.5
2024	54	53.7

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

pp.



Anna Graham

General Manager

Ministerial and Executive Services