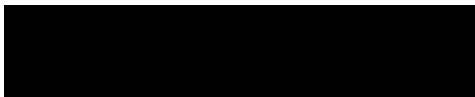




Ref: OIA 2024-012



2 May 2024

Kia ora 

Thank you for your request of 3 April 2024, seeking information about expenditure on Public Relations (PR) and Communications support by the Climate Change Commission. You asked for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“Actual and Budgeted Expenditure:

Please provide a breakdown of the actual and budgeted expenditure on PR and Communications support for the current financial year, as well as the previous two financial years, for the Climate Commission.

Procurement Process:

For each instance of expenditure on PR and Communications support, please indicate whether the services were procured through an open tender process or if it was a closed process. In accordance with the principles of the Official Information Act, I seek to understand the transparency and competitiveness of the procurement process.

Service Providers:

Please provide the names of the companies, agencies, or individuals that received payment for providing PR and Communications services to the Climate Commission. Additionally, I request the value of the contracts awarded to each service provider.

The objective of this request is to gain a comprehensive understanding of the Climate Commission investment in PR and Communications support, the processes by which these services are procured, and the entities that are engaged in providing these services.”

The Commission has considered your request in accordance with the Act, as follows. Please be aware that the Commission does not differentiate between “PR” and “Communications”, and any such expenditure is dealt with under the Communications function.

Further, we have interpreted “PR and Communications support” as Communications services from contracted third party, specialist providers, and this explicitly does not include fixed or short-term employees.



Twice a year we provide information to Select Committee, including reporting on our procurement processes, and spend on contractors and consultants. This information is publicly available – as set out below.

1. Actual and Budgeted Expenditure for PR and Communications Support per financial year

(i) Budgeted expenditure

Each year the Commission's budget includes provision for the use of specialist expertise to support its core functions and work programme delivery. These funds are allocated across a range of budget lines and cost centres which do not directly correspond to the scope of this request.

The information you are seeking in this case is not held by the Commission in the context that you have requested, but would need to be created in order to respond to your request.

We believe that extracting information from this budget to provide a breakdown of the budgeted expenditure on Communications support for this financial year and the past two financial years constitutes the creation of new information. As such, we rely on [section 18\(g\)](#) of the Act to support our decision to not provide this information.

(ii) Actual expenditure

Information on all actual contractor spend at the Commission, including that used for Communications support, can be found in our Estimates and Annual Review responses, the most recent of which is the 2022/23 Annual Review found [here](#) and the 2023/24 Estimates found [here](#).

The Commission is in the process of preparing our responses to the 2024/25 Estimates questions which will cover the actual amount spent on Communications contractors in the current financial year. This will be published on the Environment Select Committee [website](#), likely by the end of June, this year.

As this information is already publicly available, or soon will be, on the Environment Select Committee website, we are relying on section [18\(d\) of the Act](#) to support our decision not to supply it here.

2. Procurement process for each instance of expenditure on PR and Communications Support

The Commission's procurement processes are conducted within the framework of Government procurement principles and applies Government procurement rules, encouraging competitive tendering to secure value for money.

The majority of the Commission's contractor and consultant engagement is via the All of Government supply panels where a further open tender is not required, as an open tender round is completed when the contractor joins the All of Government panel. The Commission generally uses the All of Government Panel and/or a closed competitive process to source suppliers.

The tender type used in contractors and consultants procured through formal contracting processes (not just for Communications support) are publicly available in the appendices of our Annual Review documents, the most recent of which can be found [here](#). As this information is publicly available, we are relying on section [18\(d\) of the Act](#) to support our decision to not supply it here.

3. Names of service providers

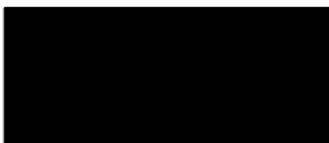
All service providers used by the Commission (not just for Communications support) and the payment received for the contract, are publicly available in the appendices of our Annual Review documents, the most recent of which can be found [here](#).

As the information you have requested is publicly available, we are relying on section [18\(d\) of the Act](#) to support our decision not to supply it here.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Office of the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Contact details for the Ombudsman can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Please note that the Commission proactively releases its responses to requests made under the Act. This is to help ensure others can also have access to this information. As such, this letter will shortly be published on our website with your name and contact details redacted to protect your privacy.

Ngā mihi



Astrid Nunns
General Manager Strategic Operations