



31 July 2023



Ref: OIA-2022/23-1072

Dear 

**Official Information Act request for yearly expenditure on flowers and bottled water**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 30 June 2023. You requested:

*This is a request for official information under the Official Information Act 1982 relating to your department's yearly expenditure on flowers and bottled water.*

*1) We request the following information:*

- Total expenditure on bottled water in 2022:  
o Please provide the total amount spent on bottled water, including the cost of procurement, delivery and any other associated expense.*
- Total expenditure on flowers in 2022:  
o Please provide the total amount spent on flowers, including any cost related to procurement, arrangements and maintenance.*

*2) Similarly, please provide:*

- Total expenditure on bottled water from January 2023 up to and including June 2023.*
- Total expenditure on flowers from January 2023 up to and including June 2023.*

*If possible, I would appreciate a breakdown of the aforementioned expenditures by specific projects, programs, or categories within your department. This breakdown will aid in comprehending the context of these expenses and enable a more comprehensive analysis.*

Government House is the only business unit of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) that has expenses for flowers. Where possible, spending is kept to a minimum, while still creating an environment suitable for the hosting of international dignitaries, heads of state, and visitors, as part of the duties expected of the Governor-General. Government House expenditure on flowers in 2022 was \$22,117.00 and between 1 January and 30 June 2023, was \$10,887.00. These figures include the costs of delivery and GST.

We do not hold any information in relation to 'procurement', 'arrangements' and 'maintenance'. Accordingly, this aspect of the question is declined under section 18(g)(i) of the Act. A further breakdown of expenditure by specific projects, programs or categories cannot be provided, as this would necessitate a search through a large volume of information and cannot be compiled without substantial collation. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

In relation to bottled water, while we made reasonable efforts to obtain the information you requested, we are unable to provide the requested breakdown. This is due to expenditure on bottled water being coded under a broader category in our finance system. Therefore, specific

spending on bottled water could not be determined. We also do not hold information in relation to the second part of your second question regarding 'a breakdown of the aforementioned expenditures by specific projects, programs, or categories' Accordingly, this part of your request is declined under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, that the information requested is not held by the Department.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward  
**Executive Director**  
**Strategy, Governance and Engagement**