



10 August 2023



Ref: OIA-2023/24-0076

Dear

Official Information Act request for information on the budget and staffing for the Christchurch Call Unit

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 31 July 2023. You requested:

"I would like to know detailed information on the Christchurch Call which I understand is administered from the DPMC.

*Specifically how many people are employed on this group?
The total budget and break down of the costs (salaries, administration, travel).*

I would like this information for the last two financial years."

You are correct, the Christchurch Call Unit (the Unit) is hosted by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). Formally, the Unit is a joint venture with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), which means that staff from both organisations work on Christchurch Call matters.

Information about resourcing committed by MFAT to the Unit is more closely connected to MFAT's functions. Accordingly, I have transferred your request to the extent it relates to MFAT resourcing of the Unit to MFAT under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. MFAT has the usual timeframes under the Act from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

The DPMC budget and breakdown of budgeted costs for the Unit for the last two years is given in the table below. At present there are ten people in the DPMC part of the Unit, six of whom work full-time. Not all of these people are employees of DPMC: amongst the ten are secondees from the Ministry for Women, from InternetNZ, and from the Australian Department of Home Affairs.

	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Budget
Personnel	647,140	803,233
Travel	5,000	60,000
Other	360,016	1,303,000
Total	1,012,156	2,166,233

Please note that these numbers do not include the costs of corporate overhead, which are allocated separately in our budget system.

The growth in “Other” costs for the 2022/23 year is largely a result of New Zealand’s NZ\$917,000 contribution to the work by Non-Government Organisation, OpenMined to develop tools to safely and securely study social media algorithms. This project, which cost US\$2 million in total, is jointly funded by New Zealand, the US Government, Microsoft, and Twitter.

For completeness, 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

A grey rectangular box redacting the signature of Anneliese Parkin.

Anneliese Parkin
Deputy Chief Executive, Policy