



9 March 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0546



Tēnā koe,

Official Information Act request: Communications and public relations roles

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 3 March 2026. You requested:

- 1. the number of staff in public relations or communications roles at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for 2026, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, and 2021 [...]*
- 2. the number of contractors in public relations or communications roles at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for 2026, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, and 2021”*

For ease of reference, we have numbered the parts of your request.

DPMC reports on corporate data by financial year, and we have interpreted your request as covering the last five financial years, including part of the 2025/26 financial year, from 1 July 2021 to 3 March 2026. The data is ‘point in time’ only, reflecting the number of roles filled as of 30 June of that financial year. For the current financial year, the data is accurate as of 3 March 2026. Please note that our answers do not include the number of staff in these roles at the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), which was a departmental agency hosted by DPMC from 1 December 2020 to 25 September 2025. NEMA is now hosted by the Department of Internal Affairs.

I note that information regarding both DPMC’s and NEMA’s roles for previous financial years is also available on Parliament’s website.

Part 1

Information for the period 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2024 is publicly available at the following link (refer to Question 44):

- Annual Review 2021/22 (refer to Question 52):
https://www3.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCGA_EVI_116496_GA20956/c9f1b748eb0455204fffce5c31d948dbe6eeab76
- Annual Review 2022/23 (refer to Question 52):
https://www3.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/54SCGOA_EVI_fd4648a6-8f33-47f5-4539-08dbfce8a371_GOA1052/259cbc95fd5596b1a1c274a8d277a2d5119d4d06
- Annual Review 2023/24 (refer to Question 52):
https://www3.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/54SCGOA_EVI_42804463-deea-4dfc-cdc6-08dd9cbad1c0_GOA37363/c136f0977cb88114f7a38f02b1dc3870c8e6f7ce.

I am therefore refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(d) of the Act.

As of 30 June 2025, there were three permanent and two fixed term communications staff; finally, as of 3 March 2026, there are six permanent communications staff at DPMC.

Part 2

Information for the period 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2024 is publicly available at the following link (refer to Question 72):

- https://www3.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/54SCGOA_EVI_6e98c62c-f3ab-41ab-b3eb-08dd0731b318_GOA31350/29a2602168d83d200fc4ad36c9a39f772a1a1061.

I am therefore refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(d) of the Act.

For the period 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025, DPMC had no contractors for communications or public relations services. As of 3 March 2026, there have been no contractors in communications or public relations roles for the 2025/26 financial year.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Cassidy', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Alan Cassidy
Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate and Chief People Officer