



National Headquarters
Fire and Emergency New Zealand
National Headquarters
Spark Central, Level 7
42-52 Willis Street
Wellington Central
Wellington 6011

Phone +64 4 496 3600

7 October 2024

Ref: 15538



Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 3 September 2024, to Fire and Emergency New Zealand requesting information relating to public sector savings targets under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). We respond to each of your questions below.

1. *How many roles have been or will be disestablished from December 1, 2023 to August 29, 2024? How many have been established?*

No roles have been established or disestablished due to public sector savings targets between 1 December 2023 and 29 August 2024. Ten roles have been established during this period, but they were established within budget by reallocating resources from across the organisation.

2. *Any communication internally regarding concerns on the impact to the frontline from December 1, 2023 to August 29, 2024*

Please find attached, as **Appendix One** to this response, all communications we identified that express any concerns on the impact to the frontline of public sector savings targets. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

3. *Any communication between management and leadership regarding leaks around the change process, from December 1, 2023 to August 29, 2024*

We have interpreted your request to be asking for any communications about leaks of any information relating to public sector savings targets between Deputy Chief Executives (DCE) or above and tier three personnel (directly reports to a Deputy Chief Executive).

We did not identify any such communications. For this reason, we are refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

4. All communication between the CE and the Minister from December 1, 2023 to August 29, 2024 regarding the change process.

We have interpreted this part of your request as asking for communications about savings targets, rather than change processes due to savings targets. Also, as a crown entity, the relationship between Fire and Emergency and the Minister is primarily held by the Board, rather than the Chief Executive. Therefore, we have interpreted your request broadly to include any communications about savings targets between the Minister and the Chief Executive or the Board Chair.

Please find this information attached, as **Appendix Two** to this response. Some information has been withheld because it is out of scope of your request.

5. How much has been spent on leadership leaving/arriving events or parties in 2024?

The total amount spent on leaving or arriving events for Fire and Emergency leadership in 2024 is \$140.14. We have interpreted 'leadership' for this question to mean tier three or above.

6. How much has been saved on the contractors and consultant spend from December 1, 2023 to August 29, 2024

Expenditure on contractors and consultants in the nine months from December 1 2023 to August 29 2024, compared to the previous nine months, 1 March 2023 to 30 November 2023, was \$8.1 million lower.

7. How many times was the counselling service used between March 1 to August 16 2024, compared to the same time in 2023?

Fire and Emergency record the number of referrals to our Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), which provides counselling. EAP services are mostly self-referral. There were 259 EAP referrals during the requested period in 2023, and 308 times in the same period in 2024.

Due to the way the EAP data is recorded, the total also includes whānau of staff who have accessed the service, and individuals can be included multiple times. There is no way of differentiating between staff from whānau who have accessed EAP services.

8. Any change process decision document from 2024

As we advised in our letter dated 29 August 2024, there have been no change processes due to public sector savings targets. For this reason, we are refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

We trust that the information being provided is of assistance. If you require further information, please email officialinformationrequests@fireandemergency.nz.

Please note that because of the identified public interest in the information that you have requested, we intend to publish this response (with your personal details removed) on our website.

Nāku noa, nā



Aidan Saunders
Manager, Information Requests

Copy to: [REDACTED]

