

Reference: 20190828

27/01/2020

Peter Nielson  
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Dear Peter

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 9 December 2019.  
You requested the following:

- 1) *A description of the position of 'Vote Analyst' i.e. what people in this role do.*
- 2) *How many vote analyst positions there are within the Treasury?*
- 3) *How many vote analysts are a) under 30 years of age and b) under 26 years of age?*

The Treasury does not have a formal 'Vote Analyst' position. The Treasury's Vote work is executed by staff ranging in seniority from graduate analysts to senior analysts, across 12 different sector teams.

The objective of Vote work is to ensure the government of the day gets the advice it needs to make high-quality trade-offs, so that new and existing interventions (spending, taxing or regulatory interventions) offer value for money and contribute to the government's priorities and the wellbeing of New Zealanders. The Treasury's advice should promote intergenerational wellbeing and cross-agency collaboration and it should help the government achieve its fiscal management and economic objectives.

This means that staff doing Vote work are generally involved in helping government departments navigate the Public Finance Act and budgetary processes and providing the government with advice. This requires staff to maintain a relationship with government departments, know how the processes work, connect departments to sources of technical expertise when required, seek to understand department strategy and performance, understand investment opportunities and provide independent advice.

As noted above, the Treasury does not have formal or dedicated Vote Analyst positions; rather, the work is executed by staff as part of their role across a number of

teams. Therefore, the sum of the senior analyst, analyst and graduate analysts who are involved in Vote work is 74.8 FTE.

The FTE is an estimate of the total number of staff involved in Vote work. It is important to note that this FTE estimate is larger than the number of 'Vote Analyst positions' as analysts at the Treasury undertake both Vote analysis and policy work.

A caveat on the number provided above is that the FTE numbers were last compiled in April 2019 and rely on the common definition of Vote work being applied consistently across all sector teams.

The information provided below is the FTE number per position involved in Vote work and the average age for that position across all of Treasury as at June 2019. The actual age for Vote analysts cannot be provided as we do not have Vote analysts, but only have aggregated FTE numbers for those who undertake Vote work, rather than specific individual details.

- a) Senior Analysts – 30.5 FTE involved in Vote work and an average age across the Treasury of 40.8 years
- b) Analysts – 31.2 FTE involved in Vote work and an average age across the Treasury of 30.6 years
- c) Graduate Analysts – 13.1 FTE involved in Vote work and an average age across the Treasury of 25.2 years

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely



Fiona Foster  
**Chief People Officer**