



OIA20-0170

Wendy Olsen  
fyi-request-12557-da174083@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Wendy Olsen

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

Thank you for your email of 1 April 2020 requesting information relating to funding for the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Incorporated (SPCA). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

*Details of funding provided to the New Zealand SPCA in 2019 (including the funding agreement) under current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).*

*Details for funding (alongside funding agreements), for the years 2017 and 2018 under the previous Memorandum of Understanding (dated December 2010), which provides funding for the training of inspectors alongside the MAF/RNZSPCA Funding Agreement*

The Government has increased funding for the SPCA's and the Ministry for Primary Industries' (MPI) animal welfare compliance and enforcement functions. The increased funding was included in the Budget 2019 announcements on 30 May 2019. The Government also continues to introduce new animal welfare regulations to ensure MPI and the SPCA are able to enforce compliance with animal welfare legislation

MPI also provides funding to the SPCA solely for compliance and enforcement purposes. This includes funding for animal welfare inspectors and auxiliary officers, who are appointed under the Animal Welfare Act. Their primary focus is to investigate cruelty, abuse, neglect and abandonment in companion animals.

**Compliance and Governance  
Compliance Services**

Charles Fergusson Building, 34-38 Bowen Street  
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Please find the response to your request below:

1. *Details of funding provided to the New Zealand SPCA in 2019 (including the funding agreement) under current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).*

For January to July 2019, MPI paid the SPCA \$220,000 plus GST =\$253,000.

This was the last payment under the old funding agreement and MOU signed in 2010 by both MPI and the SPCA.

2. *Details for funding (alongside funding agreements), for the years 2017 and 2018 under the previous Memorandum of Understanding (dated December 2010), which provides funding for the training of inspectors alongside the MAF/RNZSPCA Funding Agreement*

This was under the old funding agreement for both years. The following amount was paid to the SPCA per annum:

- \$300,000 plus GST for the programme – this funding is to operate as an organisation approved by the Minister to carry out Animal Welfare enforcement activities predominantly in relation to companion animals. Please refer to schedules one and two of the 2010 funding agreement for further details of the programme.
- \$25,000 plus GST for Inspectorate workshops.
- \$115,000 plus GST for Inspectorate training new officers.

MPI is also releasing the following documents to you in full:

- The MOU from 2010;
- The MOU from 2019;
- SPCA Funding Agreement 2010.

The 2019 SPCA Funding Agreement has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA, *to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown*, as this document has not yet been signed by both parties.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision.

Yours sincerely



Gary Orr  
Director, Compliance Services