



1 May 2023

Peter Banksia
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Our ref: OIA 104118

Tēnā koe Peter

Official Information Act 1982 request: Aspect Furniture

Thank you for your email of 29 March 2023, in which you request details about the Ministry of Justice's (the Ministry) relationship with Aspect Furniture Systems Ltd (Aspect Furniture).

For clarity, we have split your request into three parts as follows:

- 1. Details of the Ministry's relationship with Aspect Furniture and/or Aspect Furniture Systems Limited including an itemised list of all orders/purchases made by the Ministry from the company in the last ten years, including product type and its total cost, and whether or not an existing relationship exists between the Ministry and the company in regards to the purchase of furniture.*
- 2. The relevant Ministry policies that include guidance/rules around the purchasing of furniture.*
- 3. Details of any gifts received by the Ministry or any Ministry employee or contractor, directly from the company or from individuals named Richard Simmons, Andrew Simmons, or Neville Simmons.*

Your request has been referred to me for a response, as it falls within my responsibilities as Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Governance and Finance, and is being managed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The Ministry buys furniture from Aspect Furniture as an approved supplier via common capability contracts led by the Government Property Group. The information about this contract can be found on New Zealand Government Procurement website (www.procurement.govt.nz), together with the list of approved suppliers and their offerings.

In response to the first part of your request, the Ministry has paid 3,169 invoices from the last 10 years to Aspect Furniture, totalling \$13,951,818. These figures are broken down by financial year in the attached appendix.

We are unable to provide further break downs of this information, as doing so would require the manual inspection of several thousand invoices. As this part of your request would require substantial collation and research, it is refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

In response to the second part of your request, please find attached the Ministry's Procurement and Contract Management Policy which sets out the Ministry's expectations for the sourcing of any goods and services the Ministry uses, including the purchase of furniture.

In response to the third part of your request, two gifts were received from Aspect Furniture in 2020. The gifts were:

- a bottle of whiskey, worth \$49, presented to Corporate & Digital Services on 26 November 2020, and
- a bottle of wine and a candle, worth \$49, presented to Corporate & Digital Services on 21 December 2020.

No gifts from Richard, Andrew, or Neville Simmons were registered.

This information was found in the Ministry Gift Declaration Register. Please note that recording gifts of this value is voluntary as it is only compulsory for employees to enter gifts worth \$100 or more into the gift register.

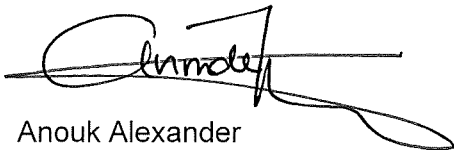
Please also note that the earliest information available in the gift register is from May 2019. The part of your request asking for gifts received prior to this date is therefore declined under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by the Ministry.

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at media@justice.govt.nz.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Anouk Alexander
Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Governance and Finance

Appendix

Purchases from Aspect Furniture, by Financial Year

| Financial Year | Invoices received | Amount |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2013-14 | 89 | \$1,661,310 |
| 2014-15 | 89 | \$727,303 |
| 2015-16 | 123 | \$1,318,498 |
| 2016-17 | 99 | \$1,049,401 |
| 2017-18 | 333 | \$1,062,799 |
| 2018-19 | 428 | \$1,357,889 |
| 2019-20 | 476 | \$972,931 |
| 2020-21 | 742 | \$2,440,405 |
| 2021-22 | 540 | \$2,431,365 |
| 2022-23 | 250 | \$929,917 |
| Total | 3,169 | \$13,951,818 |

Notes

1. The 2022-23 data is current as of 31 March 2023.

