

Hon Nicola Willis

Minister of Finance
Minister for the Public Service
Minister for Social Investment
Associate Minister of Climate Change



27 February 2024

T Murray
fyi-request-25496-33bba103@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear T Murray

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, received on 23 January 2024. You requested:

any letters or instructions sent from you on reducing costs or the use of contractors for the following agencies:

Ministry of Health and Health New Zealand MBIE Treasury Ministry for Social Development Oranga Tamariki

In December I wrote to Ministers asking that their agencies find savings ahead of Budget 2024, with individual agency targets informed by headcount growth since 2017.

All savings proposals are subject to confirmation by Cabinet as a part of the Budget 2024 process.

The contents of the requested material accordingly remain under active consideration by Ministers, as part of the Budget 2024 process. Consistent with practices in past years, key material relating to Budget decisions will be proactively released after the Budget is announced later this year.

Therefore, I have decided to withhold in full the information requested under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA, to maintain the constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Willis'.

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance