



**WELLINGTON**

6 May 2024

Ref: OIA 24-116

J. Bythell

By email: [fyi-request-26330-a733c01e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26330-a733c01e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe J Bythell

**Request for information under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email received on 5 April 2024, to the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) via the FYI website, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“Is your department at risk of overspending its financial appropriation this year?”*

*If it is, please supply*

- \* all correspondence with and information supplied to Treasury about this*
- \* all correspondence with and information supplied to your Minister and your Minister's office about this*
- \* all correspondence with and information supplied to the Public Services Commission about this*
- \* all correspondence with and information supplied to the Auditor-General or his office about this*
- \* all papers to or considered by your leadership team about this*
- \* all papers to or considered by your risk and audit committee about this*
- \* all papers to or considered by any other of your governance groups about this*

*Have you set aside an allowance in this financial year for redundancies or other costs of restructuring?*

*If so, how much is that allowance?*

*If not, do you anticipate any costs for these in this financial year?*

*To facilitate prompt response you may treat these as two separate OIA requests. You may also provide the responses in progressive releases. If one or more groups of documents might require an extension you should provide any part of the response that would not first, and the part requiring additional time subsequently.”*

I have outlined Customs' response to your request below, broken in to two parts.

**Part One**

*“Is your department at risk of overspending its financial appropriation this year?”*

*If it is, please supply*

- \* all correspondence with and information supplied to Treasury about this*

- \* all correspondence with and information supplied to your Minister and your Minister's office about this*
- \* all correspondence with and information supplied to the Public Services Commission about this*
- \* all correspondence with and information supplied to the Auditor-General or his office about this*
- \* all papers to or considered by your leadership team about this*
- \* all papers to or considered by your risk and audit committee about this*
- \* all papers to or considered by any other of your governance groups about this"*

I can advise that as of 5 April 2024, Customs is not at risk of overspending our financial appropriations for the 2023/24 financial year.

## **Part Two**

*"Have you set aside an allowance in this financial year for redundancies or other costs of restructuring?*

*If so, how much is that allowance?*

*If not, do you anticipate any costs for these in this financial year?"*

Customs has ring-fenced savings realised during the current financial year (2023/24) as part of our ongoing fiscal sustainability programme to meet the cost of any potential redundancies. We believe that these savings will be sufficient to cover that cost. However, due to ongoing consultation with staff on Customs' organisational change proposal, we are unable to disclose the amount as that would pre-empt the outcome of the consultation process.

Therefore, this part of your request is withheld under section 9(2)(i) of the Act, where the withholding of the information is necessary to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

You have the right, by way of complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available online at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or you can phone 0800 802 602.

In the first instance, if you have any queries in relation to this response, please contact the Correspondence, Reviews and Ministerial Servicing team at: [OIA@customs.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@customs.govt.nz)

Please note that Customs proactively releases responses to Official Information Act requests on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after we have sent it to you. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Nāku noa, nā



Sharon May  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**Finance, Technology and Infrastructure**