

12 APR 2018

Zane Collins
fyi-request-7416-de7c2eaa@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Collins

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your email of 9 March 2018 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding the Family Court. Specifically, your request is for the following information:

1. A detailed financial report stating the operational costs of running the Family Court in the 2016/2017 financial year.
2. The expenses of:
 - (a) Legal aid in Family Court cases
 - (b) Lawyer for the child
 - (c) Psychologists
 - (d) Counsellors
 - (e) Mediators and Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) providers
 - (f) Other NGO service providers (such as Women's Refuge, Man Alive, Aviva, Shine and counselling services organisations).

Please find my response to your requests below.

Request 1: Detailed financial report

The information you have asked for in Request 1 cannot be made available without substantial collation and analysis.

The Ministry's financial system is not activity-based. This means that we cannot quantify the costs relating to individual cases, such as in the Family Court. Other Family Court costs, such as security, judicial support staff and transcription services, are centralised national services with centralised budgets. As this information cannot be provided without substantial collation and analysis, I am refusing this part of your request pursuant to section 18(f) of the OIA.

Request 2: Expenses

Please see Table 1 below for the information concerning expenses of specific services in the Family Court.

We have interpreted your request for the operational costs of other NGO service providers (part 2(f)) as being for non-violence programme service providers.

On 15 March 2018, you made a further request to the Ministry for this information. Specifically, you requested "the total cost per person and per total to attend Non-Violence Programmes" from 2005 to 2018. This request, which is being responded to by another part of the Ministry, will be responded to on or by 30 April 2018.

Table 1: Expenses

Category of expenditure	2016/2017 value (\$)
Legal aid	19,460,392
Lawyer for the child	32,925,272
Psychologists	1,432,990
Counsellors	660,854
FDR service providers (incl. mediation)	5,606,000

Please note that legal aid and FDR service provider expenses are not associated with the running of the Family Court and, as such, are reported separately. They should not be seen to contribute to the overall cost of running the Family Court.

These figures are based on Crown (non-departmental) expenditure and do not include Ministry (departmental) expenditure. As mentioned above in my response to Request 1, these figures do not include costs to run the Family Court, such as court staff and ICT support, as these are centralised national services with centralised budgets.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

I trust this information will be useful to you.

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon
Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

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