



13 February 2024

Tēnā koe Garry Johnston

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 4 January 2024, requesting information about MSD expenditure on security guards.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

- 1. What is the total expenditure per MSD office for the last financial year on Security Guards? If per office is not available, then a total is acceptable.*

In total, the Ministry paid \$29,290,328 for Static security Guards for the last financial year (period to 30 June 2023). Your request for expenditure broken down by office is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. To respond to this query, staff would need to manually review each guard's contract to find which office/s they work at and on what days. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service. I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

- 2. This should include how The Ministry is charged e.g. hourly, daily, weekly, monthly and the cost per Guard per unit of time.*

Please find **Table one** below in response to your query.

Table one: The amount the Ministry pays per guard per hour, broken down by KiwiSaver status and level of guard qualification, as at 30 June 2023.

Level of Qualification	Kiwisaver Status	Amount paid by the Ministry to Alliance
Level 1	No KiwiSaver	\$31.60/hr
	KiwiSaver	\$32.48/hr
Level 3	No KiwiSaver	\$32.91/hr
	KiwiSaver	\$33.83/hr

There are two exceptions to the above table. The first exception is the National Office weekend rate, for which the Ministry pays \$75.08 per hour. The second exception is the Kaitiaki rate, for which the Ministry pays \$36.39 per hour.

Additional context regarding security guards

The Ministry places a high priority on the safety of its staff and clients and has in place a detailed security approach to reduce potential security risks.

Demand on Ministry frontline services is high and can be challenging for both Ministry staff and clients. The Ministry is accountable for the security and safety of staff and clients, and we take that responsibility seriously.

In supporting our clients and staff, the Ministry must also take into consideration our obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and the New Zealand Government Protective Security Requirements, which are mandatory requirements that government agencies must follow. These considerations have informed our current security model.

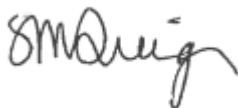
The Ministry continues to have a security guard presence at sites and there are robust processes in place to ensure their part within the range of security mechanisms is functioning effectively.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request for information about expenditure on security guards, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services