

8 April 2013

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Dear Jonathan

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2013 requesting information on the NZ Transport Agency's (NZTA's) Dunedin-based office under the Official Information Act 1982. The NZTA wrote to you on 18 March 2013 to extend the time available to respond to your request.

The NZTA's Dunedin office serves both the Otago and Southland regions and has one of the NZTA's largest geographical areas to cover.

Your questions and my responses follow.

1. How many Dunedin-based staff positions did the NZTA have on the following dates: January 31, 2010, January 31, 2011, January 31, 2012, and January 31, 2013?

As at 31 January 2010 there were 34, as at 31 January 2011 there were 37, as at 31 January 2012 there were 36, and as at 31 January 2013 there were 37. Please note these figures exclude vacancies.

2. How many Dunedin-based staff positions were made redundant in the year to each of those dates? Why were these positions cut?

There were no Dunedin-based positions made redundant in any of these years.

3. What was the value of redundancy payments made when Dunedin-based positions were made redundant by the department in the year to each of those dates?

There were no Dunedin-based positions made redundant in any of these years.

4. What was the department's annual spend on wages and salaries for Dunedin-based staff over the year to each of those dates?

Annual cost of salaries was \$2.52M, \$2.79M, \$2.90M and \$3.16M as at 31 January 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

5. What was the department's total budget for the provision of its Dunedin-based service in the year to each of those dates?

Budgets allocated to management units do not necessarily isolate Dunedin activity. I am therefore declining this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act because 'the information requested is not held'. However, actual expenditure has been provided as that is able to be attributed.

Year ended 31 January	Expenditure
2011	\$3.5M
2012	\$3.4M
2013	\$3.8M

The NZTA current accounting system only has the combined administration ledgers from the agency's predecessor organisations (Transit NZ and Land Transport NZ) from July 2009 onwards. Significant resources would be required to extract the requested data for the year ended 31 January 2010.

Additionally there are some costs relating to the Dunedin office that are managed and charged to the regional and national offices and have not been included as identifying them would involve substantial collation and research. There have been no substantial changes in this area.

6. How much did the department spend on consultants/contractors in each of the years to those dates?

Expenditure on consultants is not classified by where they are based, but by which area of the business they serve. Accordingly this part of your request is also declined under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

7. Has your department closed or moved its office in Dunedin since January 31, 2010. If so how, and from where is the current service provided?

Because of the two predecessor organisations, Dunedin staffs were in two separate Dunedin locations. They were moved into the same building (Level 2, The AA Centre, 450 Moray Place, Dunedin) in March 2011. The provision of services has not changed.

Under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, you have the right to apply to an Ombudsman for an investigation and review of the decision to decline parts of your request. The address is:

Office of the Ombudsmen
PO Box 10152
Wellington

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZTA, please contact Andy Knackstedt, National Media Manager, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz or by phone on (04) 894 6285.

Yours sincerely



Allan Frost
Group Manager, Organisational Support