

23 February 2024

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Stuff

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA- 14368

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 22 December 2023 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will address each part of your request in turn below.

#### ***The total amount LGWM spent on external consultants and contractors.***

As at 31 January 2024, Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) has spent \$109.2 million on consultants and \$15.1 million on contractors since its inception in 2015/16 financial year.

We have interpreted "contractor" to be a person temporarily working in the core programme team (i.e. temporarily filling a role where there is a vacancy), and "consultant" to be an employee of a consulting firm paid for a discrete piece of work such as preparing a report, business case etc. This is in line with NZ Procurement's definitions here: <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/assets/procurement-property/documents/consultancy-services/consultant-vs-contractor-how-to-tell-the-difference.pdf>.

Contractors and consultants are often an important part of successful and cost-effective delivery of programme work, including transport programmes. They enable programmes to swiftly fill necessary vacant roles to provide specialist expert advice and planning services, allow for short-term capability and/or capacity uplift, and provide additional flexibility.

Examples of contractor services include strategic advice and planning expertise, project management, and communications and engagement. Examples of consulting disciplines include utilities investigation, project management, transport planning, civil engineering, travel behaviour change, procurement, urban design, environmental planning, quantity surveying, funding and finance, communications and engagement, modelling and economics, scheduling, risk management, processes and systems.

LGWM needed a variety of expertise for its work and not all of it was available in-house with the programme partners. LGWM used a combination of procurement methods to purchase professional services including government supplier panels and open tendering.

***Can I also get any external and internal emails since September 2023 about whether certain roles should be deemed to be consultants/contractors.***

On 23 January 2024, you clarified this part of your request to be for any discussions via emails that occurred during the time of recruitment since September 2023.

The LGWM programme ceased new hiring decisions in September 2023 and there were no emails discussing proposed status of any roles. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse part of your request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

In line with NZTA policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Felix Marwick, Media Manager, by email to [felix.marwick@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:felix.marwick@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Elston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Robyn Elston**  
National Manager System Design