

The amount spent on external consultants across a broad range of disciplines each year in the last three financial years is provided in the following table:

Financial Year	Spend on consultants (\$m)
2022/23 (as at 31 January 2023)	8.5
2021/22	12.6
2020/21	17.4

and what is budgeted for external consultants in the next year?

LGWM does not have a budget or budget category specifically for consultants. Each LGWM project has budgets for each phase of the project, such as business case investigation, pre-implementation, implementation/construction and post-implementation. Where engineers, planners, designers and other specialist external support is required, firms are paid out of the relevant phase budgets.

I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation and I have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

However, based on current and expected contracts with external suppliers, and subject to partner approvals, it is estimated that \$60 million will be spend on engineers, planners, designers and other external specialists over the period of 2023/24 financial year.

This increase in spending is commensurate to the phases of work being undertaken by LGWM during this period, which will include:

- Construction on the Golden Mile and Thorndon Quay/Hutt Road, which will be among the largest transport construction projects undertaken in central Wellington since the Arras Tunnel and Inner-City Bypass
- Investigation, design and construction of the early elements of the City Streets package
- Detailed investigation of the mass rapid transit, Basin Reserve and extra Mt Victoria Tunnel projects.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse part of this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Willy Trolove, Senior Governance Advisor, by email to willy.trolove@lgwm.nz.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Gardner
Programme Director