

21 August 2023

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 24 July 2023. Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Does your department or agency employ staff, either full time, part time or in a contractor capacity, specifically tasked with measuring the carbon impact of the department or agency's activities? If yes:*
 1. *How many people are employed in this role, and what are their job titles?*
 2. *Provide a figure for the total annual salaries or fees paid for these roles in the last fiscal year?*

We have interpreted “measuring the carbon impact” as measuring the Department’s carbon footprint (gross greenhouse gas emissions). We note that there is no direct measurement of carbon emissions, but rather, we use expenditure reports to calculate the carbon emissions associated with most activities, such as purchased fuel and electricity.

Based on this interpretation, there is one Department employee who is specifically tasked with collating data to enable reporting on our carbon emissions. The tasks that form part of the role include data cleansing and reconciliation, trend and gap analysis, and developing and documenting processes and workflows.

The Emissions Data Analyst is a 6-month fixed-term role. This role is on salary band E, with a range between \$77,336 and \$97,708. The exact salary for this role is withheld for privacy reasons under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act. This information is current as at 30 June 2023.

2. *Can you provide the total expenditure by your department in the last fiscal year on activities specifically related to measuring the carbon impact of the department or agency's activities? This might include, but not be limited to, staff salaries or fees, software and hardware procurement, consulting fees, and any other related expenditures.*

Based on our interpretation set out above, there are no additional costs related to measuring the carbon emissions of the Department’s activities. We have a contract with Toitū Envirocare for verifying the Department’s carbon emissions. However, the contract does not include measuring carbon emissions, and we have therefore not included the costs of that contract in this response.



3. *Has your department or agency calculated any cost savings (direct or indirect) that have resulted from efforts to reduce the carbon impact of its activities? If so:*
1. *Please provide an estimate of these savings in the last fiscal year*
 2. *Provide any documents, reports, or assessments that detail these savings or the methods by which these savings were calculated?*

We have not calculated any cost savings (direct or indirect) that have resulted from efforts to reduce our carbon emissions. While an incidental benefit of reducing carbon emissions could be cost savings, the main focus of the programme is reducing gross carbon emissions rather than cost savings. We must therefore refuse this question under Official Information Act section 18(e), as the information requested does not exist.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Kevin Martin
Chief Financial Officer
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai