

OIA Ref: 2022-022

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████████████████████

22 December 2022

Tēnā koe ██████████
scope

Thank you for your email of 28 November 2022 seeking information about staff Christmas parties under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Specifically, you requested:

- *The total budget for your department's Christmas party/parties for 2022 and 2021. Please separate costs for each year.*
- *The number of parties that were or will be held in each year.*
- *The number of staff who attended (or are expected to attend) each year's party/parties.*
- *The location of the venue/s for each year.*
- *A breakdown of the costs by expense type for each year's party/parties, including (where applicable) but not limited to the following:*
 - *Accommodation*
 - *Catering (e.g., beverages, crockery, food, glassware)*
 - *Consultation with relevant stakeholders*
 - *Decorations (e.g., Christmas tree, lights)*
 - *Entertainment (e.g., guest speaker/s, live music)*
 - *Planning*
 - *Travel to and from the venue (e.g., bus hire, flights)*
 - *Venue*

Before responding to your request in detail, the Commission would like to confirm that we are interpreting your request as referring to the annual all-of-staff Christmas Party.

The decision was taken to cancel the all-of-staff Christmas party in 2021. This was due to concerns about COVID-19 at that time. As such, I am refusing the portion of your request which relates to 2021 under Section 18(e) of the Act, because the information requested does not exist.

On 7 December 2022, the Commission held an all-of-staff Christmas party at the Mount Victoria Bowling Club, in Wellington. This venue was chosen as it was local and offered the ability to socialise outdoors – something that was considered important with recent increases in COVID-19 case numbers again. Thirty eight staff attended on the day.

The agreed indicative budget was \$30 per person, or \$1,860 in total, for the Commission's 62 full time staff.

The total amount spent was \$1,731.10. This covered the hiring of the venue at \$720, a catered lunch costing \$771.10, other catering (snacks) at a cost of \$130, and \$80 on non-alcoholic beverages.

Alcoholic beverages were purchased by staff at the licensed venue's bar, and staff covered the cost of their own travel to and from the venue.

No money was spent on accommodation, consultation with stakeholders, decorations or entertainment for the day.

Organisers of the event did so through their participation in the social club and in their day-to-day work at the Commission, therefore, it is difficult to calculate how much was spent on planning the event.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Office of the Ombudsman in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website, at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Please note that the Commission has a policy of proactive release of OIA responses to help others have access to more information. As a result, this letter will shortly be published on the website with your name and contact details redacted to protect your privacy.

Ngā mihi



Stephen Walter
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Climate Change Commission