

21/12/22

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2022/40

On 29 November 2022 you made a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA) for the following information:

- *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:*
 - o *Accommodation*
 - o *Catering (e.g., beverages, crockery, food, glassware)*
 - o *Consultation with relevant stakeholders*
 - o *Decorations (e.g., Christmas tree, lights)*
 - o *Entertainment (e.g., guest speaker/s, live music)*
 - o *Planning*
 - o *Travel to and from the venue (e.g., bus hire, flights)*
 - o *Venue*

The Electoral Commission Board approves up to \$25.00 (incl. GST) towards each eligible employee's Christmas party. This can be used towards food and travel but excludes alcohol. Any additional cost would be funded by the employee.

In 2021 the Electoral Commission did not have a Commission wide Christmas party. Most departments had their own Christmas lunch function. Venues ranged from restaurants, cafes, to private homes or parks for BBQs or picnics.

In 2022 the Electoral Commission is not having a Commission wide Christmas party. Departments will be having their own functions.

There were 163 staff in 2021 who were eligible for the payment, totalling \$4,075.00.
In 2022 there are 209 staff eligible for the payment, totalling \$5,225.00.

In the interests of transparency, we release responses to Official Information Act requests every 3 months. We will publish this response with your personal details redacted.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint to the Ombudsman if you are not satisfied with the response to your request. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Lucy Hickman
Deputy Chief Executive Enterprise Services