

15 March 2019

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Personal details removed for proactive release

I refer to your email of 19 February 2019, amended on 20 February 2019, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"... How much has the department spent in the last five years (broken down by year) on buying new furniture and office supplies [excluding stationery] for its offices around New Zealand?

- Please provide any extra detail available on why the purchases were required i.e. office renovation or relocation.*
- How much has the department spent on getting rid of furniture i.e. dump or storage fees, in the last five years (broken down by year).*

Any extra detail on why certain items were procured or justification for the purchases or removal of items is appreciated..."

The table below provides a breakdown of expenditure by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) on new furniture and office supplies, excluding stationery, for its New Zealand Offices (Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch). Figures exclude GST.

Year	Total (NZ\$)
2013-14	\$87,212.19
2014-15	\$182,487.00
2015-16	\$63,912.00
2016-17	\$122,940.00
2017-18	\$133,311.00

Purchases were made to accommodate floor moves, work station upgrades such as chairs, sit-to-stand desks, partitions and under-desk storage requirements. The 2014 and 2015 years involved floor fit-outs on Level 12 and Level 25 of the Wellington office. All other years involved business-as-usual purchases.

Over the period outlined above, MFAT did not dispose of furniture unless it was broken or assessed to have no value, and therefore furniture disposal was minimal. Any items disposed of were taken to a dump site which would have incurred tip fees.

In the period 2017–18, a total of \$6,200 was spent on storage. Prior to 2017, there was no storage requirement.

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

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Adams
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade