

13 December 2023

Section 9(2)(a)

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Our ref: OIA 108228

Tēnā koe Section 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act 1982 request: Disputes Tribunal Referee information

Thank you for your request to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 20 November 2023, regarding Disputes Tribunal Referees. Specifically, you requested the following:

Please supply a template appointment letter for the referee and example warrant card. Also, can you please supply how much each referee are paid from 1st Jan 2023 to 20 Nov 2023. Further the current list of all referees in New Zealand.

“Warrant cards” and “Template appointment letters for Referees” do not exist. Letters of appointment for Disputes Tribunal Referees are issued by the relevant Minister and may be customised at the Minister’s discretion. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the requested information does not exist.

Your request for how much each Referee was paid between 1 January 2023 and 20 November 2023, is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of individual Referees. The Ministry has considered the public interest aspect to your request but does not consider this outweighs providing individual information at this time.

However, I can advise a collective figure for how much was paid to all Disputes Tribunal Referees from 1 January 2023 to 30 November 2023 (inclusive). The total paid in Disputes Tribunal Referee sitting fees was \$5,943,373.92.

For further context, Referees are allocated work based on demand and individual Referee availability. Because of this, sitting fees paid to each Referee can vary widely. The role of the Principal Disputes Tribunal Referee is quite different from that of a sitting Referee, and as such receives a salary and has not been included in the amount reported. The remuneration and allowances of the Principal Disputes Referee and sitting Referees are set by the Remuneration Authority. There is more information at: remauthority.govt.nz/.

In response to your request for the current list of all Referees in New Zealand, Appendix 1 below provides current Disputes Tribunal Referees as of October 2023.

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at media@justice.govt.nz.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by phone on 0800 802 602 or by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Nāku noa, nā



Jacquelyn Shannon

Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals Regional Service Delivery

Appendix 1

Disputes Tribunal Referees - October 2023

Last Name	First Name
MOSES	Peter
HANNAN	Bernardine
ARMSTRONG	Kate
HAYES	Andy
JADURAM	Gayatri
McKINSTRY	Phil
O'SHEA	Karen
PATON-SIMPSON	Elizabeth
Ter-HAAR	Christina
WHINERAY	Lucy
KAUR MORGAN	Parminder
ALOFIVAE	Dorothy
CONNELL	Sheryl
EDWARDS	Kaye
TAYLOR	Michelle
HOGAN	John
TAWHARA	Verdun
PERFECT	Johanna
RENDALL	Kate
UNASA	Rita
FULI	Lotu
PROWSE	Toni
KAHO	Helena
NORTHWOOD	Jane
JOHNSON	Kelly
BLAKE	Nick
TREVELYAN	Lucy
SMALLBONE	Brent
WILSON	Michael
BOYS	Christopher
MALAVIYA	Shaurya
CHAND	Arti
ROSSITER	Graham
GODDARD	Paulette
PRICE	Claire

GRAYSON	Sara
HOULT	Kay
LANG	Wendy
WOLLAND	Nigel
MEYER	Gordon
SAVAGE	Jane
MUELLER	Laura
MURPHY	Carolyn
SMITH	John
MACPHERSON	Ashley
BRENNAN	Dolly
TUNNICLIFFE	Jeanette
COSTIGAN	Jane
CURTIS	Beverley
HAWES	Cynthia
COWIE	Krysia
MERRETT	Robyn
ROSE	Stuart
THOMPSON	Leonie
SIMMONDS	Sarah
MALTHUS	Clare
SOUNESS	Rachel
MUNRO	Shelley
BYRNE	Phena