7 September 2026

Ministry for Ethnic Communities
Te Tari Mātāwaka

s9(2)(a) [redacted]

Our ref: OIA 2627-0247

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a) [redacted]

Response to your Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 20 August 2026 to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry) requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

> *Under the Official Information Act 1982, I request information relating to events, functions, gifts or other expenditure associated with the departure of the previous Chief executive and the arrival of the new Chief executive - Pratima Namasivayam.*
>
> *Please provide:*
>
> ***Outgoing Chief Executive***
>
> - *The total amount spent on farewell events, functions or other celebrations associated with their departure.*
> - *The cost of any gifts, flowers or other items purchased in connection with their departure.*
> - *A breakdown of the main costs, where available.*
>
> ***Incoming Chief Executive** - Pratima Namasivayam*
>
> - *The total amount spent on welcome events, functions or other celebrations associated with their arrival.*
> - *The cost of any gifts, flowers or other items purchased in connection with their arrival.*
> - *A breakdown of the main costs, where available.*
>
> *Please include expenditure on items such as venue hire, catering, food and beverages, gifts, flowers and other event-related costs.*
>
> *Please provide information from existing invoices, expense records, purchase orders or other financial records where available.*

The Ministry spent a total of $372.96 on catering associated with the departure of our former Chief Executive (CE). No expenditure was incurred on gifts, flowers or other items related to the departure as these were funded through staff contributions rather than Ministry funds. The farewell event was held in-house using existing meeting room facilities and therefore, no venue hire costs were incurred.

The Ministry did not incur any expenditure relating to the incoming CE as no welcome event was held. As the incoming CE is an existing member of the Ministry and is well known to staff and stakeholders, a formal welcome was not considered necessary.

Under section 28 of the OIA, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response relating to this request. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Proactively released by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Richard Taylor
Acting Director, Ministerial Services

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