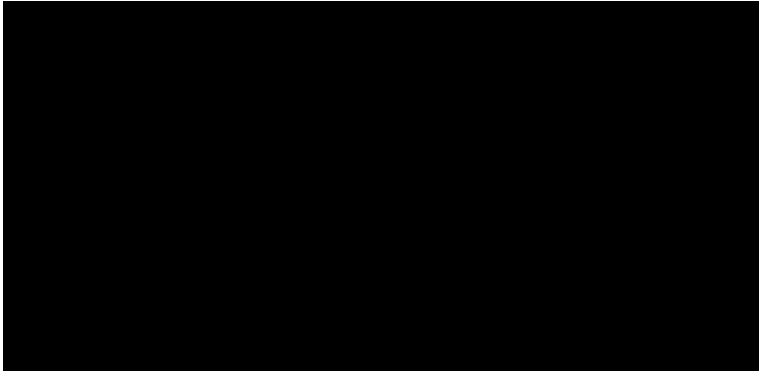


24 May 2024



**Official Information Act #23.238 – Response**

1. We refer to your request received on 24 April 2024 for information about the Commerce Commission’s (the Commission) spending on contractors/consultants. You requested:
  - 1.1 “Your organisation’s total spend on and consultants from 1 January 2004 – present, broken down by month (including April 2024 if possible). Please further break down that spend by business group (or equivalent organisational unit), with all figures provided in a spreadsheet in the following format:
  
2. On 26 April 2024, you refined your request to the following:
  - 2.1 Your organisation’s total spend on contractors and consultants from 1 January 2018 – present, broken down by quarter (including Q1 2024). I hope this information will already be compiled due to the Public Service Commission’s regular reporting of these figures since 2018, as mentioned [here](#). Please further break down that spend by business group (or equivalent organisational unit), with all figures provided in a spreadsheet in the following format:

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020
Business Group X	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX

Business Group Y	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX
Business Group Z	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX	\$XXX,X XX

3. We have treated this as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

### **Our response**

4. We have decided to grant your request. Please find this information in the spreadsheet **attached**, broken down by quarter and branch.
5. The Commission's organisational structure (branches) changed part-way through the period requested. To enable consistency, we have collated the information as if the current organisational structure existed for the whole period.
6. Further, we note that the Commission's roles and responsibilities grew significantly over the period. The Commission has taken on new responsibilities in relation to Competition Studies, Fibre Regulation, Fuel, Retail Payment Systems, and Groceries which required use of contractor and consultant resource to quickly commence our regulatory responsibilities. In addition, the Commission received time-limited funding in relation to the review of Input Methodologies under Part 4 of the Commerce Act and proposed economic regulation of Water. Total budgeted expenditure for the Commission increased from \$45.8 million in 2017/18 to \$109.9 million in 2023/24. Expenditure on contractors and consultants should be read and understood in this context.
7. The Commission discloses annual expenditure on contractors and consultants annually as part of the Select Committee Annual Review process. For transparency given its role as part of our enforcement activities, we disclose spend on external legal counsel in addition to contractor and consultant spend to our Select Committee. We have not included expenditure on external legal counsel in these figures.
8. If you are not satisfied with the Commission's response to your OIA request, section 28(3) of the OIA provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

### **Further information**

9. Please note the Commission will be publishing this response to your request on its website. Your personal details will be redacted from the published response.
10. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [ويا@comcom.govt.nz](mailto:ويا@comcom.govt.nz) if you have any questions about this response.

Yours sincerely



OIA and Information Coordinator

	2018 Q1	2018 Q2	2018 Q3	2018 Q4	2019 Q1	2019 Q2	2019 Q3	2019 Q4	2020 Q1
	Jan18-Mar18	Apr18-Jun18	Jul18-Sep18	Oct18-Dec18	Jan19-Mar19	Apr19-Jun19	Jul19-Sep19	Oct19-Dec19	Jan20-Mar20
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Market Regulation	178	413	23	72	128	97	106	157	146
Infrastructure Regulation	136	169	372	258	307	718	301	524	247
Legal Services	115	119	26	26	111	304	224	417	80
Competition	42	15	67	30	38	316	244	294	157
Fair Trading	21	93	8	5	28	68	6	2	6
Credit	-	-	-	10	4	157	27	62	4
Corporate	121	127	80	192	176	106	129	244	153
<b>Total</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>793</b>

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2020 Q2	2020 Q3	2020 Q4	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1
Apr20-Jun20	Jul20-Sep20	Oct20-Dec20	Jan21-Mar21	Apr21-Jun21	Jul21-Sep21	Oct21-Dec21	Jan22-Mar22	Apr22-Jun22	Jul22-Sep22	Oct22-Dec22	Jan23-Mar23
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
59	127	30	(45)	208	300	132	56	334	619	786	862
287	444	785	518	756	713	825	380	431	202	310	595
149	84	180	82	427	127	132	29	301	126	106	179
189	270	140	286	360	124	206	22	88	32	48	49
(1)	3	29	57	81	157	55	95	362	397	289	390
78	188	136	145	273	222	291	134	154	143	149	183
361	367	591	478	1,004	784	794	759	1,030	933	808	885
<b>1,122</b>	<b>1,484</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>1,521</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>2,699</b>	<b>2,453</b>	<b>2,495</b>	<b>3,142</b>

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2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4	2024 Q1	2024 Q2
Apr23-Jun23	Jul23-Sep23	Oct23-Dec23	Jan24-Mar24	Apr24
\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1,284	893	1,022	681	105
819	745	1,883	1,157	194
283	153	202	92	14
443	261	361	213	88
652	234	386	58	63
266	200	95	66	18
1,058	1,167	1,328	843	110
<b>4,805</b>	<b>3,653</b>	<b>5,279</b>	<b>3,109</b>	<b>592</b>

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