

10 April 2026

## **Official information regarding cost of Judicial Review cases**

### **Our Ref: OIA-2526144**

I refer to your official information request of 18 February 2026 to the Department of Corrections (Corrections). As you know, Corrections transferred a portion of your request to Crown Law on 11 March 2026, specifically:

*How much have they [the Department of Corrections] spent in total defending judicial review cases in 2025?*

### **Our response**

In 2025, Corrections spent \$538,261.57 (GST exclusive) on fees and disbursements paid to Crown Law for judicial review claims and related appeals.

This figure does not include fees paid by Corrections to external law firms briefed by Crown Law to act for Corrections on judicial review claims. We cannot provide this figure without substantial collation, so that aspect of your request is refused under s 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982. In deciding to refuse this portion of your request, we considered whether fixing a charge or extending the time limit would enable the request to be granted, as per section 18A of the Act. Given the work required, and the limited resources available to complete it, we do not believe that it would.

### **Other matters**

Please note that we may publish this response (with your personal details redacted), and any related documents, on Crown Law's website if we decide proactive release of this information is or may be in the public interest. If you have any concerns about this, please let us know within 10 working days of the date of this letter.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us at [OIA@crownlaw.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@crownlaw.govt.nz) or through the mail: PO Box 2858 or DX SP20208, Wellington 6140.

Nāku noa, nā

**Crown Law**