

16 April 2026

Official information request regarding Judicial allowances for briefcases
Our Ref: OIA-2526160

I refer to your official information request to the Ministry of Justice, which it partially transferred to Crown Law on 19 March 2026. The transferred part of the request asks:

I am requesting information held by the Ministry of Justice relating to the allowance provided to judges for the purchase of briefcases....

[...]

6. Any reviews, internal advice, or assessments undertaken since 1 January 2023 relating to the ongoing need for, or value for money of, this allowance.

Crown Law holds no information relating to reviews, internal advice, or assessments undertaken since 1 January 2023 relating to the ongoing need for, or value for money of, an allowance provided to judges for the purchase of briefcases. We are therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act because the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Note that terms and conditions of appointment for Judges in the senior courts (High Court and above) are set by the Attorney-General with the assistance of Crown Law. The Ministry of Justice publishes on its website the current and previous terms and conditions of appointment for Senior Court judges. The current terms and conditions do not include an allowance for the purchase of briefcases, and such an allowance last featured in the terms and conditions that applied to Senior Court judges before 2022.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact OIA@crownlaw.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Crown Law



Peter Gunn

Crown Counsel