



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

20 March 2024

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request Our Ref: OIA 2024-0052

I refer to your official information request received on 28 February 2024 where you asked:

“Wonder if you could help out with supplying a longer term data series on Public Servant FTEs by occupation. (The PSC website refers to Public Sector Workforce data but i assume this is not accurate)

I am doing some research on the changes (or lack thereof) in the size of the state - one of the questions is how has the role of regulation changed over time. For other dimensions i am using SNA data back to 1972

The PSC Website has FTE workforce occupational data but it only goes back to 2013. I am interested in the FTE of Inspectors and Regulatory Officers occupation group and the % of Full Time Equivalent staff going back as far as data is available.

The SSC switched to using electronic payroll data in my time at the Commission back in the early 1990s. So I was expecting to find occupational data back to then . I can live with series breaks if there are definitional change -. All the other data series I am working with run back to 1972 so the longer the better. But the survey data captured before the HRC as very basic as i recall it without the granularity that accessing unit record give us with the HRC,”

Our response

Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (the Commission) holds FTE data for the inspectors and regulatory officers occupation group from 2007, when the Commission adopted the new Statistics New Zealand *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)*.

Please find outlined in the below table, FTE data for inspectors and regulatory officers by number and percentage.

Year	Inspectors and Regulatory Officers	
	in the Public Service	% Total FTE
2007	8,326	19.80%
2008	8,698	19.96%
2009	9,245	20.70%

2010	9,454	21.22%
2011	9,334	21.41%
2012	9,234	21.30%
2013	9,480	21.30%
2014	9,688	21.40%
2015	9,456	20.85%
2016	9,511	20.72%
2017	10,468	22.15%
2018	10,485	21.08%
2019	10,550	20.05%
2020	11,316	19.80%
2021	11,497	18.82%
2022	11,176	18.51%
2023	11,257	17.83%

The share of the inspectors and regulatory officers occupation group has been declining over time, as this occupation group has grown at a slower rate than the rest of the Public Service workforce. Inspectors and regulatory officers share has fallen from a 2017 peak of 22.2% (when the operation of Mount Eden Prison returned to the Department of Corrections from a private provider) to its lowest level since records began. Contributing to this decline from 2017 to 2023 has been the Business Transformation at Inland Revenue, and a reduction in corrections officer numbers in the last three years.

Information not held

From 2000 to 2006, the Commission was using the *New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification* (NZSIC), which is not directly comparable to the ANZSCO. Occupation data is not available before 2000, when the Commission switched to using electronic payroll data.

Accordingly, I am refusing your request for FTE data for inspectors and regulatory officers before 2007 under section 18(e) of the OIA on the grounds the information requested does not exist.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz.

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.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Dirks', with a stylized, cursive script.

Nicky Dirks

Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission