



6 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Request regarding improving policy advice

Our ref: SSC2018/0096

I refer to your official information request received on 20 June 2018 as follows:

"I would like to know how much is allocated within your budget towards improving the quality of policy advice. If I could please have the amount allocated for this year and the previous year".

The State Service Commission does not specifically allocate budget for improving the quality of advice. This is achieved by ongoing management support and oversight, peer review, mentoring and supported by appropriate professional development.

Your request is therefore declined under 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information requested does not exist.

In 2014 the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) established The Policy Project. This project aims to "improve the quality of policy advice across government" by "building a high performing policy system that supports and enables good government decision making".

More information on The Policy Project can be found on the DPMC website: <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/policy-project/about-policy-project>.

In addition, each year the Treasury publishes policy advice measurement to help agencies "better understand the cost and quality of their policy advice function and helps them identify opportunities for improvement". The 12 agencies in this data represent approximately 95 percent of the government's policy advice appropriations.

This information can be found at: <https://treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/state-sector-leadership/guidance/implementation-management-monitoring-guidance/policy-advice-measurement>.

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

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. 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 State Services Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Moore', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Moore
Managing Principal
State Services Commission