

[REDACTED]  
By email: [REDACTED]  
Ref: H202005183

Dear [REDACTED]

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

*"Can you release all costs the government has spent to date on managed isolation- this includes but not limited to all costs of having the defence force on site, food and drink, accommodation cost, transport (bus, flights, taxis) temp fencing, security, nurse/ healthcare, border control"*

On 14 July 2020, your request was transferred from the office of Hon Megan Woods under section 14 of the Act, as the information requested is more closely aligned with the functions of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry).

Firstly, I apologise that your request has been passed between agencies following the transfer for responsibility for managed isolation facilities between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

The Ministry's focus has been on the swift establishment and the operation of the facilities as part of the country's response to COVID-19. As such, the Ministry's resources have been on these activities rather than undertaking detailed analysis of costs.

Invoices received will be for varying periods of service and it is not possible for them to be split from a specific date (9 April). The total amount spent \$81.973 million (GST inclusive) up to 30 June 2020. This covers food and accommodation for guests, and direct costs that aren't covered in all of government staff baselines, which are met by the respective organisations who are providing those staff. The Ministry cannot currently provide a breakdown of these costs by type of service in accordance with section 18(f) as there is currently no mechanism to report this level of information. I have considered whether charging or extending the time to compile the information would enable us to respond, however as each invoice would need to be identified and reviewed to compile the information, I do not believe that it is in the public interest to do so.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely



Natalie Richardson  
**Director**  
**COVID-19 Health System Response**