

4 July 2023

s9(2)(a)

Talofa lava s9(2)(a)

## RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 12 June 2023, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to the Pacific community's contribution to the New Zealand economy. I have outlined your specific request and my response below.

*... information regarding the financial contribution made by the Pacific community to the New Zealand economy from the 1950s up to the present time. It would be greatly appreciated if you could furnish me with pertinent data and statistics related to this subject matter.*

In response to your request, I refer you to two publicly available reports from the Ministry and the Treasury:

- [Pacific Economy Research Report on Unpaid Work and Volunteering in Aotearoa](#) (Ministry for Pacific Peoples, 2021)
- [The New Zealand Pacific Economy](#) (the Treasury, 2018)

I must therefore partially refuse your request under section 18(d) as some of the information requested is publicly available (in the reports provided above). Please note that these reports do not necessarily contain data and statistics dating back to the 1950s, so I must also partially refuse your request under section 18(g) as some of the information requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department. Please be advised that while the OIA allows New Zealanders to ask government agencies for information, there is no requirement to create new information or compile information they do not hold.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: [oiia\\_requests@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:oiia_requests@mpp.govt.nz).

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. So'otaga', written in a cursive style.

Mauailegalu Mathew So'otaga  
**Director,**  
**Ministerial Services**