

ENQ-38580-V5N5C7

30 April 2020

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Taxpayers' Union
Level 4, 117 Lambton Quay
PO BOX 10518
Wellington 6143

Private Bag 632
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Level 10, Grant Thornton House
215 Lambton Quay
Wellington 6011, New Zealand

epa.govt.nz
+64 4 916 2426

Via: requests@taxpayers.org.nz

Official Information Act Request

Dear ██████████

I refer to your request received on 20 April 2020, for the following information:

"We write to ask whether your organisation will fairly share the burden of the economic crunch by:

- *cancelling all scheduled salary increases for all but frontline workers until the economy has recovered (i.e. when quarterly GDP has returned in real terms to the that of Q4-2019); and*
- *following many leaders in the private sector by*
 - *reducing your salary by 20 percent for the next 12 months; and*
 - *asking second-level managers (those who report directly to you) to do the same."*

Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

In this unprecedented time, we recognise and acknowledge that many New Zealanders are facing tough economic times. The EPA is currently considering guidance from the State Services Commissioner in relation to pay restraint in the public sector received on 28 April 2020.

The EPA has not yet had time to consider its response to this guidance. As a result, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the OIA; that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist. However, when a way forward has been finalised, we will happily share our approach with you.

I note that the State Services Commission discloses the remuneration paid to State Sector chief executives to provide transparency for the public. Any relevant decisions relating to remuneration will be reflected in this disclosure.

For further information on chief executive remuneration, or guidance on pay restraint in the public sector, we suggest you contact the State Services Commission.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allan Freeth". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and "F".

Dr Allan Freeth
Chief Executive