



9 June 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 11 May 2023. You requested the following:

"High Wealth Individuals Research Project Report" was released during April 2023. In the Te Awamutu Courier / NZ Herald dated 2 May 2023, Squillions Limited was credited as being a contributor to the report project as a consultant. Could you please confirm how many paid consultants / contractors were used in the overall project and preparation of the report? Could you please also confirm how much was paid to these consultants / contractors for the services provided? Finally, how many of these consultants / contractors had withholding tax deducted under the schedular payment rules?

The table below details the six contractors and consultants who contributed to the High-Wealth Individuals Research Project and the totals paid for their services, by financial year.

	2021/2022	2022/2023	
	Sep-21 - Jun-22 Actual (\$)	Jul-22 - Apr-23 Actual (\$)	Total (\$)
Squillions Ltd	120,225	200,388	320,613
Inclusive Analytics	27,145	80,690	107,835
Beyond Recruitment	75,605	52,710	128,315
OCG Consulting Ltd	78,628	63,534	142,162
Name withheld under section 9(2)(a) ¹	-	10,000	10,000
AUT Ventures Ltd ¹	-	10,000	10,000
Total	301,603	417,322	718,926

One individual's name is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons. No public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding.

Inland Revenue has not deducted any withholding tax under the schedular payment rules for these contractors and consultants.

It is important to note that all external contractors and consultants, performing functions akin to those of an employee, were required to sign an Inland Revenue certificate of confidentiality. New Zealand legislation has a strict focus on confidentiality. Under Inland Revenue legislation a breach of the certificate may result in criminal prosecution. The confidentiality agreement that we require contractors to sign also reflects these strict confidentiality requirements.

¹ One-off contractors were required for peer review.

Right of Review

If you disagree with my decision on your OIA request, you can ask an Inland Revenue review officer to review my decision. To ask for an internal review, please email the Commissioner of Inland Revenue at: CommissionersCorrespondence@ird.govt.nz.

Alternatively, under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. You can contact the office of the Ombudsman by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you choose to have an internal review, you can still ask the Ombudsman a review.

Publishing of OIA response

Please note that Inland Revenue regularly publishes responses to requests that may be of interest to the wider public on its website. We consider this response is of public interest so will publish this response in due course. Your personal details or any information that would identify you will be removed prior to it being published.

Thank you for your request.

Yours sincerely



Felicity Barker
Policy Lead, Inland Revenue