



HUD2024-005723

s 9(2)(a)

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 18 November 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *The total times adult entertainment websites have been blocked by your agency's web filter, on staff devices or any work environment.*
 - *If you require a list to search this, please use your own discretion.*
- *A breakdown of these figures by month.*

Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) allows staff to use the internet for reasonable and appropriate personal use that does not interfere with work. Ministry staff are bound by the States Services Standards of Integrity and Conduct, issued by the Public Services Commission, which states that activities, work or non-work, that may harm the reputation of the Public Service must be avoided, and the Ministry's own Code of Conduct, which requires employees to be professional at all times. Prior to taking up a position at the Ministry, successful candidates are required to sign and return the ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

A range of content is blocked by the Ministry's IT systems and all categories for objectionable material are blocked by default. Restricted website categories for objectionable material include, but are not limited to, the following:

- malicious websites
- freeware and software downloads
- file sharing and storage
- pornography
- spam URLs
- proxy avoidance
- phishing
- gambling.

The reporting of any attempts to access restricted websites and/or restricted website categories is set in our contract with our network provider. We receive weekly reports in PDF format and do not require our provider to retain logs after reports are provided due to the cost associated with storing this data.

Because the Ministry is a cloud-based organisation that does not possess an internal network or gateways to capture all web traffic, as well as the way in which we receive our reporting, we are unable to provide the number of times access to restricted websites has been blocked, or any breakdown of this data, without substantial manual collation across all devices with network access. For this reason, I am refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act, on the grounds that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

As part of our ongoing commitment to openness and transparency, the Ministry proactively releases information and documents that may be of interest to the public. As such, this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on our website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Scarlett', with a stylized, cursive script.

Emily Scarlett

General Manager People and Community

Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development