


11 September 2023

File Ref: OIA 47671



Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 16 August 2023. You asked for the following information:

"Can you please send me a breakdown of how much has been spent on staff functions over the last five years.

Please include details of each function, when it was held, the purpose eg. leaving or welcome events, and how much was spent broken down by expense eg. food, travel, gifts etc".

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

We have identified information held which we consider to be within scope of your request. This information relates to how much Te Puni Kōkiri has invested on welcomes or farewells for Tier 1 and 2 staff since 2017, and Christmas parties in 2021 and 2022. This information is provided in Appendix A.

The remainder of your request, where you have asked for a breakdown and details of staff functions over the last five years that we have not outlined above, would require us to undertake a substantial manual collation exercise. Accordingly, the remainder of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

We also advise that Te Puni Kōkiri is required to report our spend on internal conferences and seminars, staff retreats, offsite training, or planning and team-building exercises, including travel costs to the Māori Affairs Select Committee annually. This information is publicly available on the Parliament NZ website at the following links:

- 2021/22 Annual review of Te Puni Kōkiri – Ministry of Māori Development – Q101, page 50 refers:
www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/53SCMA_EVI_130136_MA14392/te-puni-k%C5%8Dkiri-responses-to-written-questions-1-145
- 2023/24 Estimates Examination: Vote Māori Development – Q137, page 69 refers:
www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/53SCMA_EVI_f52fc806-3ade-4095-da53-

[08db57de42b0_MA14716/minister-for-m%C4%81%C5%8Dri-development-responses-to-written-questions#RelatedAnchor](#)

We have considered the public interest in arriving at our decision on this matter. We consider that the time it would take us to undertake a substantial manual collation and the expense of diverting kaimahi from their core duties to complete this task is not in the public interest.

Upon receipt of this information, you may wish to submit a new request with a more narrow scope which may enable us to respond without the need to undertake a substantial manual collation exercise.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Te Puni Kōkiri publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address or contact details.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact us at oia@tpk.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Grace Smit
Hautū, Te Puni Whakahaere Tikanga | Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Finance and Performance

Appendix A

Welcome and farewell events

Te Puni Kōkiri has held seven welcome or farewell events for Tier 1 and 2 staff since 2017. A summary of these events is provided in the table below. Te Puni Kōkiri does not report on the cost of these events individually and have estimated the combined cost at just under \$39,000.

Financial Year	Event Type	Tier	Position
2018/19	Farewell	Tier 2	Deputy Chief Executive
2019/20	Farewell	Tier 1	Chief Executive
	Welcome	Tier 1	Secretary
2020/21	Welcome	Tier 2	Deputy Secretary
	Welcome	Tier 2	Deputy Secretary
2022/23	Welcome	Tier 2	Deputy Secretary
	Welcome	Tier 2	Deputy Secretary

Kaimahi Christmas Functions

Te Puni Kōkiri limits the total budget per kaimahi for Christmas functions to a maximum \$25 (GST incl.). This is only available for permanent and fixed term kaimahi.

Te Puni Kōkiri does not specifically track Christmas function expenditure. In 2021 Te Puni Kōkiri hosted a centralised celebration, at a cost of \$7,073.08. In 2022, Te Puni Kōkiri devolved Christmas functions, suggesting Puni and teams may want to celebrate the end of the year in their own ways. The information in the tables below is based on information collected through our finance system that has been identified as attributable to Christmas functions.

Number of kaimahi

Year	Number of kaimahi Eligible for \$25 subsidy
2021	424
2022	441

Christmas Party Expenditure 2021

2021 Expense type	Expenditure
Catering	\$6,927.39
Decorations	\$125.69
Delivery Charge	\$20.00
Total	\$7,073.08