

4 October 2023

File Ref: OIA 47782

Tēnā koe

### Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 7 September 2023. You asked for the following information:

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

1. *How much government and ministerial funding has each of the six Māori Warden regional groups received annually over the past **17 years**?*

Six Māori Warden regional groups established themselves in 2021 in an effort to modernise their current structure. They have only received two years of regional funding amounting to \$1.7 million per year from July 2021 to June 2023.

Prior to the establishment of the regional groups \$1 million was distributed in total to individual Māori Warden groups nationally. There have been up to 75 Māori Warden groups operating at a given time that received a portion of this funding across the country.

Financial Year	Amount received	Recipients
2007 - 2020	\$1 million per financial year	Individual Māori Warden Groups
2021 - 2023	\$1.7 million per financial year	Six Regional Māori Warden Groups

2. *What is the intended budget for the new National Entity, and how will this be distributed amongst the regional groups?*

A Māori Warden National Entity (Ngā Watene Māori O Aotearoa) was established in November 2022. They are the key contact point for all Māori Warden mahi at a national level and will eventually be the distribution point for Māori Warden funding from Te Puni Kōkiri.

Once at full capacity it is intended the National Entity receive \$1,178,000 million of which \$1 million will be distributed to regional entities and \$178,000 to the national entity towards operation costs involved in supporting each of the six regional entities.



*3. How much is it costing to create the national entity?*

Establishment costs for the National Entity were initially incurred by Te Puni Kōkiri. The majority of these costs were associated with holding meetings (travel, accommodation & meals) with Māori Warden representatives to design and implement an establishment plan. Throughout 2022 this included three in-person hui at a cost of approximately \$5,000 each. However, most hui have been held online, minimising costs significantly.

Regional Māori Warden groups funded the national Warden organisation's registration and launch using their own resources. Because of this fact, Te Puni Kōkiri does not hold this information. Therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

*4. Could I please see a copy of the letter sent to regional executive boards notifying them that the Māori Warden Project Team at Te Puni Kōkiri was dis-establishing?*

One document has been identified in scope of your request. The document and my decisions with regard to the release of the information are set out in the table attached as Appendix A.

I trust my response satisfies your request.

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](http://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](mailto:oia@tpk.govt.nz).

Ngā mihi

Grace Smit  
Hautū, Te Puni Rangapū ā-Rohe me Whakahaere | Deputy Secretary, Regional Partnerships & Operations

Appendix A – documents OIA request from Jordan Dunn dated 7 September 2023

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1.		<i>Supporting Maori Wardens Mana Motuhake Letter</i>	<i>Released in full</i>



## Mā te huruhuru, ka rere te manu

Congratulations!

As you move closer towards independence and autonomy, I want to update you on what to expect going forward now, that the new operating structure is in place.

There will be a few changes to the way you have received support in the past and these changes will impact the roles and responsibilities of Ngā Watene Māori o Aotearoa, the six regional warden authorities, and Te Puni Kōkiri.

Firstly however, please know that funding has been distributed directly to the regional warden authorities to assist in the national and regional management of your members. They are now responsible for the training and upskilling of Māori Wardens as well as ensuring correct uniforms are provided and worn when performing day to day activities.

Secondly, although the Māori Wardens Project Team has been dis-established, Te Puni Kōkiri will maintain a strong relationship with Wardens, still administer warrants on behalf of the Minister for Māori Development, provide funding and also be available to provide support to Ngā Watene Māori o Aotearoa on policy matters, and the six regional warden authorities. Hoana Leef will be your contact but if this changes we will let you know - 027 598 9871, [Hoana.leef@govt.nz](mailto:Hoana.leef@govt.nz)

On behalf of the Māori Wardens Project Team, we want to say thank you for the great relationships, friendships, achievements, and struggles we have experienced together over the past 17 years.

Māori Wardens is one of the longest running volunteer institutions in New Zealand built on aroha, manaaki, awhi and whanaungatanga, and I look forward to watching you grow, and thrive under your own mana motuhake.

Ngā mihi nui

Te Rau Clarke

Former Manager Māori Wardens Project.

