



8 March 2022

File Ref: OIA 44695

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) dated 29 January 2022. You asked for the following information:

“Under the official Information Act please provide the following information.

What was the total cost/ expenditure of the He Pua Pua working group and report chaired by Dr. Claire Charter and submitted to Hon Nāi nāi Mahuta in Nov 2019”

On 9 February 2022, DIA transferred your request to Te Puni Kōkiri. This transfer was made in accordance with section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Background

Prior to outlining my decision on your request, I wish to provide some context on the *He Puapua* report. This information is essential to understand the nature and purpose of *He Puapua*.

By way of background, on 13 September 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration), a non-binding document on the rights of indigenous peoples. The Declaration covers a broad range of rights and freedoms including the right to self-determination, culture and identity, and rights to education, economic development, religion, customs, health and language.

In April 2010 the New Zealand government, in keeping with our nation’s long-standing commitment to human rights and indigenous rights, became signatories to the Declaration. Māori hold a special status as the tangata whenua of New Zealand, and indigenous rights and culture are of profound importance to New Zealand and fundamental to our identity as a nation.

In March 2019, the then Minister for Māori Development, the Hon Nanaia Mahuta, announced that the Government would develop a plan of action or other measure on New Zealand’s progress towards the objectives of the Declaration.

In August 2019, Cabinet invited the Minister to appoint an independent technical working group to provide her with advice on:

- the form and content of a Declaration plan, and
- an engagement process with iwi, hapū, whānau Māori.

For obvious reasons this date is highly relevant to your request as it constitutes the start point for the availability of information pertaining to your request.

The Declaration Working Group (DWG) also received secretariat support from Te Puni Kōkiri and the Human Rights Commission, amounting to arranging travel and venues for meetings of the DWG and meeting the group's general administration requirements.

The DWG provided its report, *He Puapua*, to the then Minister for Māori Development on 1 November 2019.

Your request

As your request is very specific in focussing on information relating to the "total cost/ expenditure of the He Pua Pua working group and report", I have identified two categories of information within scope of your initial request:

- fees paid to the members of the DWG for *He Puapua*
- fees paid towards the editing and drafting of *He Puapua*

I wish to clarify that in August 2019 (as noted above), Cabinet invited the Minister to appoint an independent technical working group to provide her with advice on the form and content of a Declaration plan, and an engagement process with iwi, hapū, whānau Māori. Accordingly, this date has been treated as the start point for any searches in relation to your request.

My decision

I will first address the total cost/expenditure of the DWG. Following Cabinet's decision in August 2019 the DWG was appointed. The DWG was comprised of non-government members (Dr Claire Charters (Chair), Waimirangi Ormsby, Naomi Solomon, Gary Williams MNZM and Dr. Jacinta Ruru) and government officials (Emily Owen, Judith Pryor, Kayla Kingdon-Bebb and Tamati Olsen). These government officials were not eligible to be paid any fees for their contribution.

I am withholding the total fees paid to each individual non-government member of the DWG under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. However, I consider that the public interest relating to this part of your request can be equally well-served by disclosing to you that the combined total amount paid in fees to the non-Government members of the DWG was \$44,094.80 before tax.

Secondly, the *He Puapua* report also underwent a process of drafting and editing. The combined total amount paid in fees paid to the independent provider was \$39,166.84 excluding GST.

Therefore, the total fees paid was \$83,261.64.

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 uia@tpk.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Geoff Short
Hautū, Te Puni Kaupapa Here | Deputy Secretary, Policy Partnerships

Released under the
Official Information Act 1982