


31 Poutūterangi 2025

File Ref: OIA 50378



Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 3 Poutūterangi 2025. Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the **Act**). Your questions and our responses are as follows.

“Just to clarify, what you're telling me is that the steering group has met four times since its inception and has received Government funding of \$840,000 since 2023.”

On 17 Hakihea 2020, the Crown announced it had entered a Memorandum of Understanding, He Puumautanga, with Kīngitanga and Auckland Council as a means to resolve issues concerning land at Ihumātao. He Puumautanga provides that a group should be established – the Rōpu Whakahaere, which is responsible – by consensus – for determining the future use of Ihumātao and giving “effect to the Parties shared vision for the whenua.”

Te Rōpu Whakahaere consists of six members comprised of:

- three ahi kā representatives, supported by the Kīngitanga;
- one representative representing the Kīngitanga; and
- two representatives representing the Crown.

Auckland Council is an observer and works to support the Rōpu to achieve its vision and objectives.

Since He Puumautanga was signed in 2020, discussions and meetings occurred, facilitated by the Kīngitanga, to determine the three ahi kā representatives. The Crown appointments were made in Pipiri 2022 and the Auckland Council observer confirmed at this time too.

Te Puni Kōkiri is not a member of Te Rōpu Whakahaere and as such we do not hold records of their meetings. However, over this period Te Puni Kōkiri has attended four meetings of the Rōpu at their invitation.

“Can you tell me how much funding the group received before 2023?”

*“Are we sure the original \$440k was in 2023, or was it 2022 - because that's when then-Minister Willie Jackson [announced the Crown's](#) representatives?”
“I also see from [this report](#) in Oct 2024, that Te Puni Kōkiri contributed \$200k to cover costs for the steering group... Is this in addition or as part of the above?”*

“It also references a contract valued at \$300k entered into with the office of the Kīngitanga in June 2023...”

Are these figures on top of the \$840k you've quoted me, or is this \$500k a part of the figure you've quoted me?”

“I'm sorry, but these figures are all over the place.

How much has the Ministry of Māori Development contributed to the Roopu Whakahaere (Steering Group) since its inception?”

“I will need a breakdown of how this money has been spent.”

Te Puni Kōkiri has committed total funding of \$1,187,878.23 (GST exclusive). The below table provides the purpose and breakdown of this funding.

| Year(s) | Purpose | Total \$ (GST exclusive) |
|----------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 2021 | Costs associated with legal/consultant advice relating to He Puumautanga. Facilitation of the tikanga process | \$487,878.23 |
| 2023-2024 | A plan for the strategic case developed and agreed through community consultation. Final report completed. | \$300,000.00 |
| 2023-2026 | Annual Service fee with the Office of the Kīngitanga to provide support as the secretariat (\$100k per annum). | \$400,000.00 |

In regard to your mention of “\$200k to cover costs for the steering group”, we interpret this to mean the annual service fee with the Office of the Kīngitanga to provide support as the secretariat. I can confirm this is part of the above total funding.

“How many 'days of related work' have the members undertaken?”

Te Puni Kōkiri is not a party to He Puumautanga (the relationship agreement between the Crown, Auckland Council and the Kīngitanga), and as such we do not have a record of these hui.

“Who does have a record of these meetings? Are there logs or meeting notes available?”

“Who can I speak to regarding these meetings and any decisions about the land?”

Please contact Raphael Hilborn, spokesperson for the Office of the Kīngitanga on these matters.

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 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 oiatpk@govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Paula Rawiri
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