

23 April 2025

File Ref: OIA 50395

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 24 March 2025. Your questions and our responses are below.

Your request was originally made to the Department of Internal Affairs on 13 March 2025. On 24 March 2025 the Department of Internal Affairs transferred your request to Te Puni Kōkiri for a response.

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

"1. I request a copy of all communications between Te Puni Kōkiri and Harataunga West 2B2B2B2 Ahu Whenua Trust during the period 1 January 2018 and 30 April 2025".

Te Puni Kōkiri regularly communicates with Māori land trusts in the course of our duties. An initial email search for the period 1 January 2018 to 30 April 2025 produced hundreds of results., I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

We have carefully considered whether fixing a charge or extending the time limit would enable this part of your request to be granted, as required by section 18A(1) of the Act, however these options would still have a significant and unreasonable impact on our staff's ability to carry out other operations.

2. I require Te Puni Kōkiri to respond to the following questions:

(a) Has Te Puni Kōkiri approved a feasibility grant for the Harataunga West 2B2B2B2 Ahu Whenua Trust? How much was approved and what are the deliverables and timeframes?

I can confirm that Te Puni Kōkiri has not granted funding to Harataunga West 2B2B2B2 Ahu Whenua Trust during the period 1 January 2018 and 30 April 2025. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

(b) Did the Trust disclose information about the infrastructure development being primary used for holiday homes and proposed occupants will not be living on the whenua?

(c) Did the Trust disclose they had already received government funding for an Ecologist Plan and this was completed by Wildlands Trust in 2012?

(d) Did the Trust disclose LTO recipients have to pay all costs associated with survey, geotec reports and consenting related to their site?

In response to your request 2(b)(c)(d) and as indicated in the response to question 1 and 2(a), this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested the information cannot be made available without substantial collation.

(e) Did Te Puni Kōkiri seek information on managing conflict when feasibility grant funding is used to remunerate Trustees”?

We have interpreted this question to mean managing potential conflicts of interest for Te Puni Kōkiri kaimahi. Te Puni Kōkiri has a Conflict of Interest policy that requires all kaimahi to declare any real or potential conflicts of interest. Steps are then taken to ensure that staff members with a conflict of interest are not involved in any decisions involving a group or organisation they may be involved with in a private capacity.

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 oia@tpk.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Grace Smit
Hautū, Te Puni Rohe | Deputy Secretary, Regions