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Dear s 9(2)(a)

Official information request for information about Ministry for the Environment funding for the Iwi Leaders Forum and Iwi Chairs Forum

I refer to your official information request received by the Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) on 18 January 2018:

1. *Can MFE tell me how much funding the Iwi Leaders Forum/Chairs organisation has received from the ministry?*
2. *What has this money been used for?*
3. *Does MFE know the value for money it's gotten for this funding?*
4. *Are there individuals contracted by the Forum to do work for it but paid for by the ministry?*
5. *How much have these individuals been paid?*
6. *I understand one of the individuals is Willie Te Aho...is this correct? How much has he been paid?*
7. *What work has he been completed?*
8. *Can this data be broken down by year going back five years please?*

Would someone be able to call me about whether these questions are able to be answered by February 1?

On 24 January 2018, Ministry employee, Janice Rodenberg, provided some contextual information to the Ministry relationship with ILG and confirmed with you that we were not able to answer your request by 1 February. She advised that because of the volume of information that needed to be collated to respond to your request the Ministry were going to treat it as a request under Official Information Act 1982. She noted the Ministry would respond by 16 February 2018 in accordance with the statutory timeframes in the Official Information Act 1982.

On 16 February Ms Rodenberg contacted you advising of a delay, and that you would receive a response as soon as possible the week starting 19 February 2018.

Please find below a comprehensive response to your request. I apologise for the delay in getting this response to you.



Background

The Ministry has provided some funding for exploration of policy options to address iwi/hapū rights and interests for natural resources within the framework of the Crown's overall approach to engagement with the ILG.

As the ILG is not a legal entity in its own right, the Ministry has worked closely with members of the Iwi Advisors Group (IAG) to identify key tasks and work programmes required to provide the Crown with advice on the rights and interests of iwi/hapū. The IAG is a key group of technical advisors to the ILG and carries out the majority of policy work for the ILG. In the interests of transparency, we have provided you with information on all contracts where the Ministry is funding ILG/IAG work for the past 5 years.

Question 1, 2 and 8 – total funding and work completed over the last five years

The Ministry does not provide funding directly to the ILG or Iwi Chairs forum. Over the last five years the Crown and the Freshwater ILG and IAG have worked together to develop freshwater policy and mechanisms that could be considered by the Iwi Chairs Forum, Cabinet and the New Zealand public.

ILG input began as policy advice on fresh water but has now been extended to include climate change, biodiversity and marine issues which are of critical importance to Māori and to all New Zealanders.

In summary, I can advise that the Ministry has paid a total of \$3,779,937.36 over the past five years. To date for the 2017/18 financial year the Ministry has paid \$190,375.60 to deliver outputs agreed to in relation to the continued work of providing the views and advice of iwi/hapū in relation to environmental issues and ongoing policy work.

You will find a breakdown of contracts, specific amounts paid and the deliverables for those contracts grouped by financial year in the tables attached to this letter.

You may be interested to know that each year the Ministry must submit details of their contracting activities as part of its Annual Review. Annual reviews are part of Parliament's financial cycle, and look back at how Government departments, Offices of Parliament, Crown entities, public organisations, and State enterprises have performed over the previous financial year. You can find out more information and browse old records at www.parliament.govt.nz.

Question 3 – value for money

From a general perspective, the Ministry's relationship with the ILG and the advice received to better inform how policy can address iwi/hapū rights and interests has been a valuable investment.

The Ministry also funds other organisations such as the Land and Water Forum to support the ability of other groups with interests in natural resource management to enable them to provide input into policy development.



Receiving advice from these groups is critical to the development of informed robust policies.

The contracts have provided valuable input/information in to the following:

- provision of an Iwi generated perspective on Iwi rights and interests in waimāori (freshwater);
- development the National Policy Statement for Fresh Water;
- development of the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill;
- the Ministry's review of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme; and
- participation in the Biodiversity Collaborative Group in developing the draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

From a contractual perspective, as is standard Ministry contracting practice, each individual contract has been monitored to ensure contract deliverables are provided in accordance with the terms of each contract, and meet identified Ministry standards.

Question 4 – 5 – individuals contracted

As noted above, because the ILG is not a legal entity, the Ministry has contracted with a range of legal entities, and in some cases individuals in order to receive advice from the ILG/IAG. I can confirm that over the past five years, 3 individuals and 19 legal entities were contracted.

Question 6 and 7 – Willie Te Aho

I can confirm that Willie Te Aho is not one of the individuals that has been contracted by the Ministry for ILG/IAG work.

Under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my response to your request.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Robertson
Secretary for the Environment

Encl

Last five financial years of contracting information

Released under the provision of
the Official Information Act 1982
