



s 9(2)(a)



Thank you for your email of 7 July 2022 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I request a copy of all correspondence and communications, electronic or otherwise, between the Ministry for the Environment and the Public Service Commission regarding the appointment of Gannin Ormsby to the Waste Strategy Expert Advisory Rōpū.

I also request any notes taken by the Ministry for the Environment and any advice received from the Public Service Commission during the meeting between officials of the two entities on 20 October 2020, referenced in WQ 20481 (2022).

Enclosed are the documents within the scope your request. Some information has been redacted under section 9(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

The Ministry has released a range of information regarding the rōpū and you can find this information at environment.govt.nz/oia-releases/

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Glenn Wigley
Director - Policy and Regulatory, Waste and Resource Efficiency

From: [Glenn Wigley](#)
To: [basswhite.jobshare](#); [Marianna Tyler](#)
Subject: FW: Procurement conflicts issue - heads up
Date: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 4:28:56 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

fyi

From: Glenn Wigley
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 4:29 PM
To: Sam Buckle <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>; Amanda Moran <amanda.moran@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Procurement conflicts issue - heads up

Kia ora korua

As requested I spoke this afternoon to Dallas at PSC.

She wanted to ask around PSC, and came back to me after an hour or so.

They feel that Gannion's relationship with Minister Mahuta shouldn't preclude us from engaging with his company or himself. As long as we have strong conflict of interest arrangements and active management in place.

Other factors that were less significant but relevant;

- The skill sets that Gannion has
- The fact that the contract is with MfE not Ministers
- Ministers were not involved at all in suggestion of names

They noted that if Minister Mahuta had responsibilities for waste in the future, there is a question whether we would need to raise her raising the conflict with the PM.

Glenn

From: Sam Buckle <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 2:58 PM
To: Alice King <Alice.King@mfe.govt.nz>; Amanda Moran <amanda.moran@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Kirsty Millard <Kirsty.Millard@mfe.govt.nz>; Teri Moon <Teri.Moon@mfe.govt.nz>; Glenn Wigley <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Procurement conflicts issue - heads up

Glenn is going to follow up on this front.
Sam

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From: Alice King <Alice.King@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:35:14 PM
To: Amanda Moran <amanda.moran@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Kirsty Millard <Kirsty.Millard@mfe.govt.nz>; Teri Moon <Teri.Moon@mfe.govt.nz>; Sam Buckle <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Procurement conflicts issue - heads up

No, we haven't. Teri has worked with the team and developed a management plan that we in Procurement feel comfortable with.

I am happy to talk with Glenn's team about seeking advice from PSC if you would like us to do that before it goes to Vicky?

From: Amanda Moran <amanda.moran@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 2:32 PM
To: Alice King <Alice.King@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Kirsty Millard <Kirsty.Millard@mfe.govt.nz>; Teri Moon <Teri.Moon@mfe.govt.nz>; Sam Buckle <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Procurement conflicts issue - heads up

Have we asked for advice as part of the procurement plan from PSC?

From: Alice King <Alice.King@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 October 2020 2:08 PM
To: Amanda Moran <amanda.moran@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Kirsty Millard <Kirsty.Millard@mfe.govt.nz>; Teri Moon <Teri.Moon@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Procurement conflicts issue - heads up

Hi Amanda,

This is a heads up on a procurement issue that will be going to Vicky Robertson for approval due to the nature of the conflicts of interest involved, namely close relations of Minister Mahuta. I'm putting this on your radar in case Vicky has any questions for you – but I am also very happy to answer any questions she might have.

The procurement in question is from the Waste and Resource Efficiency area and relates to the engagement via direct source of three consultants to work with MfE on the development of a waste strategy. The consultants are Maori individuals who have recognised experience and mana in both waste, resource efficiency, circular economy and matauranga Maori. They will work with MfE during the development of the strategy to ensure a matauranga lens is applied throughout the strategy development and Maori views are represented and included.

Conflict of interest

There is a major perceived conflict risk with this one and we have advised that it needs to be signed off by Vicky so that she can make a final decision on the conflict of interest issues. The main organisation we are contracting with is Ka Awatea Services Ltd, and the individuals are Gannin, Tamoko, and Waimirangi Ormsby. Gannin Ormsby is married to Hon Nanaia Mahuta, and the other two are also close relatives. As you know, Nanaia Mahuta is (and remains under the caretaker government arrangement) a Cabinet Minister and also an Associate Minister for

the Environment (but with no involvement in waste and resource efficiency matters). The procurement plan details how this risk could be managed. The Procurement Team considers the management plan to be sound, but ultimately, we believe it should be a decision for Vicky as to whether she wishes to proceed.

This procurement was provided to us at the last minute as an urgent procurement, however, we understand that the team were told by people in the Ministry involved in the Ihirangi project to engage with us at least three weeks' ago. We will work with the WRE team to improve early engagement with us.

The issue will be put up to Vicky by the WRE team (Glenn is the director). Teri Moon has been advising the team and either she or I are happy to answer any procurement questions you or Vicky might have.

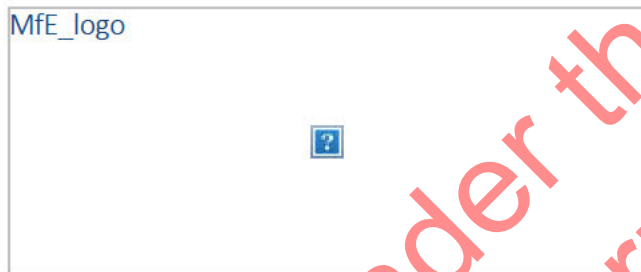
Alice

Alice King – Manager, Legal and Procurement

Ministry for the Environment – Manatu Mo Te Taiao

Mobile: § 9(2)(a) Email: alice.king@mfe.govt.nz Website: www.mfe.govt.nz

23 Kate Sheppard Place, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143



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From: Sam Buckle <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, October 23, 2020 3:34:48 PM

To: Vicky Robertson <Vicky.Robertson@mfe.govt.nz>; Kim Matthews <Kim.Matthews@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Amanda Moran <amanda.moran@mfe.govt.nz>; Glenn Wigley <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: updated procurement plan for ropu for VR approval 22 October TM approved 23 10 2020

Kia ora Vicky,

As discussed yesterday, we are appointing three Maori experts to help develop the new NZ waste strategy. One of the three, Gannin Ormsby, is married to Minister Mahuta, creating risk of a perceived conflict. I am comfortable with the appointment of Gannin for reasons set out in the risk and mitigation section of the procurement plan. Gannin is highly qualified, Minister Mahuta has no involvement in this work etc. We have also consulted PSC and they have indicated that the relationship shouldn't preclude Gannin from being appointed. Nevertheless, given the perception risk, procurement has indicated that the CE should sign off on the procurement plan. The individual contracts for the three experts do not require your signature.

Thanks

Sam

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the Official Information Act 1982

From: [Sam Buckle](#)
To: [basswhite.jobshare](#); [Marianna Tyler](#)
Cc: [Glenn Wigley](#)
Subject: RE: Context for direct approach - Maori experts waste
Date: Thursday, 22 October 2020 12:40:23 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Nicola, just spoke to Vicky (and then Glenn).

In short, focus for now on the 3 separate contracts for expert advisors (Gannon, Teina, Jacqui) and ensure Gannon's includes requisite disclosure and understanding how we would address situation in respect to Ministerial appointments. Useful to include feedback from PSC. On this basis not sure whether Vicky needs to sign or not any longer. Need to discuss with procurement.

Need to deal with the question of additional services separately. This needs to be separately scoped and addressed, and, if required for project delivery, need to determine what process need to go through.

Thanks

Sam

From: [basswhite.jobshare](#) <basswhite.jobshare@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 22 October 2020 11:12 AM
To: [Sam Buckle](#) <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>; [Marianna Tyler](#) <Marianna.Tyler@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: [Glenn Wigley](#) <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Context for direct approach - Maori experts waste

Great ta. See the explanation and description of them in the revised procurement plan I sent around earlier, which explains why they would be best. But if that is a step too far this week, we'll make it work.

n

From: [Sam Buckle](#) <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 22 October 2020 11:00 am
To: [Marianna Tyler](#) <Marianna.Tyler@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: [Glenn Wigley](#) <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>; [basswhite.jobshare](#) <basswhite.jobshare@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Context for direct approach - Maori experts waste

Thanks Marianna, im talking to Vicky at 1. As discussed with glenn, my concerns aren't around appointment of the 3 specialist advisors. The COI (or potential COI) is manageable and PSC is ok with it. And they do all have specialist expertise. It's the contract for additional delivery services that we need to work through. Ill get back to glenn later this afternoon.

Sam

From: [Marianna Tyler](#) <Marianna.Tyler@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 22 October 2020 9:46 AM
To: [Sam Buckle](#) <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Glenn Wigley <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>; basswhite.jobshare <basswhite.jobshare@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: Context for direct approach - Maori experts waste

Kia ora Sam,

I'm not sure if you have already met with Vicky, but below are a few bullet points to support your discussion, if required. Nicola has aligned these points in the procurement plan too.

Context for why we didn't go to market

- The waste and resource efficiency team is committed to working with Maori from the outset in their development of a new waste minimisation strategy. This is a new approach for the directorate and one that aligns with the Ministry's commitment to work more collaboratively with our Treaty Partner.
- Initially, timeframes for this project were tight with a draft strategy being proposed to go to Cabinet in February 2021. Te Ohu Maori was asked to identify a small ropu of experts to act as advisors and provide this expertise and capability within these timeframes.
- The make-up of skills required include Maori with demonstrated knowledge and expertise in waste minimisation, who are also thought leaders in combining circular economy, doughnut economy, matauranga Maori, and te ao Maori.
- This combination of skills is quite rare in the current market. The experts we are proposing to engage have already started this thinking and have a full understanding of the many practical variables that combine across community, iwi, hapu, business, local and central government and wider Maori communities.
- Jacqui Forbes and Gannin Ormsby were both founders of the Para Kore Zero Waste on marae programme since 2009, which is now a nation-wide programme that has over 200+ marae participating. Jacqui remains the general manager of Para Kore and Gannin has established a whanau consultancy - Ka Awatea Ltd - which is focused on developing the conceptual framework of a circular economy (Amio) through a te ao Maori lens. Teina Boasa-Dean was a keynote speaker at the Ellen Macarthur Foundation Circular Economy Pacific Summit in 2019 (Vicky was at this summit and may remember her) and has been developing the connection with matauranga Maori, the doughnut economy and the circular economy.
- Tamoko and Waimirangi Ormsby are a young couple and also a part of the whanau consultancy Ka Awatea. They have been actively progressing the concept of the circular economy and te ao Maori working with Auckland Council and are contributing to the 'Amio - Circular Economy Aotearoa' research project recently awarded \$10million dollars via the Endeavour Fund to University of Waikato. They also operate as independent contractors as required.
- The COI with Gannin and Min Mahuta was raised by the team in mid-August. Advice recently sought by the SSC was that Gannin should not be precluded from working with us so long as the Ministry has strong conflict processes in place.
- Te Ohu Maori had initial 'soft' conversations with individuals to first gauge if they were interested in being involved in this work. The ropu requested a hui with the Ministry to gain

more context to better understand the full scope of the project before agreeing to proceed. At this hui the Ministry agreed to send through deliverables for the ropu to consider. The ropu then responded with a full proposal outlining what they proposed to deliver.

- The timeframe for this project has since extended with the draft strategy due to Cabinet June 2021.

Also FYI Gannin is in the MfE office today as part of the Waipa River iwi hui.

Nga mihi,

Marianna Tyler
Principal Advisor, Office of the Chief Executive

Ministry for the Environment – Manatu Mo Te Taiao

Mobile: s 9(2)(a) Email: Marianna.Tyler@mfe.govt.nz Website: www.mfe.govt.nz

23 Kate Sheppard Place, Thorndon, Wellington 6143



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