

22 October 2019

Ciaren McGuire

Via Email: [fyi-request-11285-e683eac2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11285-e683eac2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ciaren

Thank you for your request of 24 September 2019, for “costs and benefits of RBNZ's participation in the ACAMS conference this October”.

The responses to your various questions are as below:

***Please advise me of the staff attending (names not required):***

- *How many staff are attending*

Five staff from the RBNZ attended the FIU/ACAMS conference held in Wellington in 2019.

- *What the job title of each attendee is and how each staff member will be improved in their specific job by attending as looking at the agenda for the conference and RBNZs very limited role in the AML regime it is hard to see how more than a third of the conference content offers real value to them*

The attendees from RBNZ were one Adviser - Banking & AML/CFT Supervision and four Senior Analyst - Banking & AML/CFT Supervision.

The RBNZ is one of three sector supervisors within New Zealand's AML/CFT regime. The Bank supervises compliance of all registered banks, all licensed non-bank deposit takers, and those licensed insurers that offer investment products, with the AML/CFT Act 2009.

The Adviser presented at two of the sessions: *Evolution of Sector Supervisors* and *Summary of themes from the Sector Supervisor workshops*. The Sector Supervisor Workshop provided RBNZ with an opportunity to communicate key AML/CFT information to reporting entities, including recent updates to guidance. The workshop also provided reporting entities with an opportunity to seek clarification from the RBNZ on any AML/CFT matters. The workshop and conference allowed AML/CFT supervisors to further establish and maintain good working relationships with AML/CFT personnel from different reporting entities.

- *Where in NZ each attendee in each role is based and on what basis they were chosen to attend*

Four attendees are based in the RBNZ's Wellington Office, and one attendee is based in the Auckland Office. All five AML/CFT supervisors were selected to attend to further establish and maintain good working relationships with AML/CFT personnel from different reporting entities.

- *How much tax payer money was paid for the attendance of each staff member*

The RBNZ paid for two staff members to attend the conference (a total of \$1520 was paid for the conference tickets as one member received a 10% ACAMS member discount). RBNZ received free admission for the Adviser who presented at the Conference plus two others.

- *How much tax payer money will be spent on travel and accommodation and food/other expenses for each staff member that these expenses applied to*

Travel and accommodation were paid for the only supervisor based in Auckland, which included return flights and two nights' accommodation, with a total of \$637.18 (\$360 accommodation + \$277.18 flights). Taxi fares and food expenses are paid back to the staff member upon provision of original payment receipts in accordance with the RBNZ's expenses policy.

- *How much money if any RBNZ contributed to funding the conference*

The RBNZ did not contribute to the funding of the conference.

***For membership of ACAMS and other professional bodies please provide:***

- *How many of your staff are members of ACAMS or other AML related professional bodies in cases that RBNZ pays for their membership -What actual benefit they get in terms of their ability to better do their jobs from these memberships*

One staff member has an ACAMS membership. Membership fees are supported by the RBNZ. The benefits from membership include regular training opportunities as well as the opportunity for the team to keep abreast of updates and changes in the global AML/CFT network of certified AML/CFT specialists.

***More generally:***

- *Please provide a detailed explanation of your AML group and its locations and structures*

The AML/CFT Supervision team reports to the Manager Banking & AML/CFT Supervision and consists of five members in total: One Adviser (Wellington based), four Senior Analysts (three are Wellington based, one is Auckland based).

- *Please provide salary details for each role*

This information is withheld under Section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act (OIA) for privacy reasons, as the AML/CFT team is a small group of people and this information can easily identify individuals.

- *Please provide a detailed explanation of what each role in the team actually entails in their job*

Adviser:

- Providing strong technical leadership, guidance, mentoring and support to the Senior Analyst supervisors in the team, in respect of their work as AML/CFT supervisors;
- Undertaking analysis and assessment of supervised entities' compliance with AML/CFT requirements;

- Contributing to the ongoing development and implementation of the Reserve Bank's AML/CFT policy and supervisory framework;
- Developing and maintaining effective internal and external relationships and representing the Bank in domestic and international fora
- Reporting to management within the Reserve Bank and to cross-Government committees.

Senior Analysts:

- Undertaking analysis and assessment of reporting entities' compliance with their AML/CFT requirements through on-site visits and desk-based reviews.
  - Developing and undertaking industry outreach
  - Contributing to the development and implementation of the Reserve Bank's AML/CFT policy and supervisory framework.
- *Please provide details of all testing that is undertaken on potential recruits for the AML group and the associated criteria that the Department looks for*

All members of the AML/CFT supervision team have had criminal record and credit checks undertaken prior to the commencement of their roles at the RBNZ. Relevant skills include technical AML/CFT skills and experience in either the financial services industry, law enforcement or supervision. Interpersonal skills such as relationship management and influencing and persuasion skills are also relevant to the roles.

- *Please provide detailed demographic information as captured by the optional starter equal opportunities voluntary information and any internal reviews. To include gender, ethnicity, professional background and any other demographic captured. Please break this down by role, team and geographic location and please provide this data longitudinally for the last five years (snapshots at three or six monthly intervals will be acceptable)*

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Where information has been withheld under Section 9(2) of the OIA, the Reserve Bank has considered the public interest in the release of this information and does not consider it outweighs the need to protect it. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish a copy of this response (with personal information removed) on the Reserve Bank's website [www.rbnz.govt.nz/research-and-publications/official-information-requests](http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/research-and-publications/official-information-requests). Responses to requests are published in order to improve public transparency and provide an additional resource for anyone seeking information.

Yours sincerely

Serene Ambler  
Senior Communications Adviser | Reserve Bank of New Zealand | Te Pūtea Matua