



Te Uru Rākau

Forestry New Zealand

OIA19-0799

02 JUN 2020

Cain Kerehoma

fyi-request-11604-25c95edb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Cain Kerehoma

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Your request for money spent on consultants through the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) has been transferred to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following. I have responded to your queries in order.

1. *How much money has been spent on the big 4 accounting firms (Deloitte, KPMG, PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and Ernst Young) as part of the PGF investment?*

\$20,574 has been spent on PwC in relation to the PGF. PwC was commissioned to undertake a review of systems and processes of the Crown Forestry Joint Ventures programme. No other money has been spent on any of the other firms named in your request.

2. *How much money has been spent on "consultants" as part of the PGF investment?*

MPI defines a consultant as an individual or organisation paid to provide expert advice or opinion that is not readily available from within Te Uru Rākau and MPI. The consultant is engaged to perform a specific piece of work or outcome with a clearly defined scope and operates independently with responsibility for all the resources and managing the risks associated with delivering work as well as the outcome of their work. The role does not fill an established position.

\$1,387,993 has been spent by Te Uru Rākau and the MPI on consultants as part of the PGF investment.

Activities that consultants have been engaged in include:

- Promotion and evaluation of forestry joint ventures;
- Due diligence as part of forest evaluations (e.g. log price and yield information);
- Tree crop valuations and associated advice (e.g. applicable discount rates);

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Charles Fergusson Building, 34-38 Bowen Street
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

- Independent management review;
- Review of One Billion Trees technical assessments and applications; and
- Development of case studies and plain English guidance for applicants.

3. *How much money has been spent on "consultants" in the Tairāwhiti region as part of the PGF investment?*

From October 2017 to 31 December 2019 \$25,000 has been spent in the Tairāwhiti region on the recruitment of a forestry project management consultant to support work related to the PGF.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Weston', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Henry Weston
Director Forest Development Grants and Partnerships
