



5 January 2021

Alex Harris

Email fyi-request-14353-bf54f000@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex

Official information request – Membership of the New Zealand Initiative

I refer to your official information request dated 22 December 2020 as follows:

- “* **When did your agency join the New Zealand Initiative? Is it still a member?**
* **Who approved joining? Was there any formal analysis of the compatibility of membership with your agency’s purposes and functions? (if so, I would like a copy)**
* **How much membership has cost your agency since joining.”**

The University joined the New Zealand Initiative in 2018 and is a current member.

The decision to join the Initiative was made after discussion with the Vice-Chancellor’s Office staff (Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Chief Operating Officer). There was no formal minute of the decision.

This decision reflected the fact that the Initiative is an effective conduit for University leader’s engagement with many of New Zealand’s most senior business leaders, as well as the fact that the Initiative promotes informed debate about issues of importance to the University (including the Waikato Management School). For example, two staff members from the Initiative are speaking at an upcoming Waikato Management School conference on the New Zealand economy.

The University is **withholding** information under section 9 (2) (i) of the Official Information Act 1993 with respect to the cost of membership since joining.

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 or free phone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Mercer'.

Jim Mercer
Chief Operating Officer