



9 August 2021

Ref: OIA 2021-2556

Terry Thomas

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Tēnā koe Terry

Thank you for your email of 14 June 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*“Please provide all proposals and budgets for 2021 [M]atariki celebrations the ministry is proposing to directly fund, whether the event is confirmed or not. Also the location/s of such event/s and who will be invited (categories rather than individuals).”*

On 12 July 2021, we sent you a notice of extension, advising that you could expect to receive a response on or by 9 August 2021.

Our response to your request is outlined below.

I can confirm that MBIE has not proposed or budgeted to fund external Matariki celebrations.

We have had a number of internal events to celebrate and reflect on Matariki in 2021, but these have not involved formal proposals or been funded by MBIE. The internal events were organised by MBIE staff who wished to gather together to celebrate Matariki in various ways during the Matariki period, including through waiata, informal gatherings and a virtual seminar with Māori astrophysicist, Dr Pauline Harris. All of the internal events took place on MBIE premises, and had MBIE staff as the invitees.

Some of our MBIE staff also participated in an inter-agency waiata session celebrating Matariki. The interagency waita session had MBIE staff and staff from external public sector agencies as invitees.

I trust you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

**Melanie Porter**

General Manager Engagement, Communications and Ministerial Services  
Ngā Pou o te Taumarau