

10 November, 2021

Via fyi.org.nz

Kia ora John Luke,

I am responding to your Official Information Act request of 18 October asking for “a full copy of signed MoU with UnionPay International. What’s the term of conditions and how it get review or renew? Please provide a list of entities that has similar MoU like the UnionPay International one with TNZ. “

Given the increasing importance of the Chinese market to the New Zealand tourism sector in 2013, official recognition of UnionPay International by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) served as a clear signal that New Zealand was “open for business” to all Chinese visitors to New Zealand.

As the reliance on cash payment in China declined and use of electronic payments increased, TNZ needed to ensure that the necessary payment facilities were readily available to Chinese visitors throughout New Zealand. The MoU was a way to make it more convenient for visitors to use their UnionPay International card at a wider range of places in New Zealand. This arrangement did not commit Tourism New Zealand to any specific activities with UnionPay International but made it more convenient for Chinese visitors while they were in New Zealand.

We are not releasing the MoU under section 9(2)(i) of the Official Information Act, that enables a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

The MoU was valid until 31 December 2015 and was not renewed after that date. Tourism New Zealand does not have any other MoU’s in place with other payment providers.

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 freephone 0800 802 602.



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Ngā mihi,

Rebecca Ingram
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