



Te Pūkenga

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Daniel F Benson-Guiu

By email: fyi-request-19397-235b008b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Daniel

Request under the Official Information Act 1982 – membership of BusinessNZ and correspondence on Fair Pay Agreements

Thank you for your email of 19 May 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1) *As a member of the Major Companies Group of Business New Zealand,*
 - a) *what is the cost of membership?*
 - b) *Since when is Te Pūkenga a member?*
- 2) *What advice or services has Te Pūkenga received from Business NZ since its membership began?*
- 3) *How many meetings regarding Fair Pay Agreements have Te Pūkenga representatives had with Business New Zealand?*
- 4) *We request any correspondence between Business New Zealand and Te Pūkenga in regards to Fair Pay Agreements.*

Te Pūkenga has been a member of BusinessNZ since 11 November 2020 and pays \$35,000 (excluding GST) per year for this membership.

Advice and services

Through our part of the Reform of Vocational Education and the Minister of Education's expectations of us, we have been charged with ensuring a strong connect with employers as part of a unified vocational education system that will bring together industry and educators to make sure our workforce is fit for today's needs and tomorrow's expectations.

Our membership of the Major Companies Group (MCG) of BusinessNZ means we are part of an important forum of other large companies who have the common goal of ensuring success for Aotearoa / New Zealand's economy. Fora provided as part of membership of MCG of BusinessNZ include updates on energy, environment and climate, employment relations, economy and tax, skills and training, and trade.

Since being a member, as at 25 May 2022, Te Pūkenga had received 231 regular email updates from BusinessNZ. The email updates contained a wide variety of specialist advice on current business issues and invites to various events. The advice received was in the form of presentations, webinars, and information

sheets, and included business relevant topics such as COVID issues, infrastructure, Workforce Development Councils, the Emission Reduction Plan, employment relations, immigration, digital strategy, data and statistics, New Zealand's income insurance scheme, enabling psychological wellbeing, and WorkSafe guidance. The latest advice received was a summary of this year's Budget with a 'business lens'.

We also received 37 engagement or invitation specific emails to events and forums to engage with many of our key stakeholders, including those in government and in the business sector.

Fair Pay Agreements

We have not had any meetings with BusinessNZ about Fair Pay Agreements. We did receive four emails related to Fair Pay Agreements, including: an invitation to a forum, which includes details about other work currently underway for BusinessNZ; a recording and presentation from a related webinar; BusinessNZ's draft and final submission to the Education and Workforce Committee; and an email about incorrect misinformation claims regarding an International Labour Organisation report.

Te Pūkenga did not provide comment on the submission to the Education and Workforce Committee, nor did it attend the forum.

Information within scope of your request

I have attached a copy of the email regarding the misinformation claims and the forum invitation. BusinessNZ staff information has been withheld from these emails under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect their privacy. Information has also been redacted from the invite that is out of scope of the request (where it relates to other work underway for BusinessNZ).

Copies of the remainder of the information provided to Te Pūkenga by BusinessNZ within scope of this request has been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA as we consider releasing this information would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of Business NZ. We considered the public interest when making the decision to withhold this information.

We note that BusinessNZ's submission to the Education and Workforce Committee will be made publicly available on Parliament's website, and is available now on BusinessNZ website www.businessnz.org.nz.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA if you are not happy with this response. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Stephen Town
Chief Executive

