

12 October 2023

File Ref: OIA 47803

Katherine Raue
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Tēnā koe Katherine

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 14 September 2023. You asked for the following information:

“[...] all information held by the Ministry regarding numerous complaints to the Maori Council regarding the triennial elections in 2018 and 2021, all information regarding the subsequent inquiry into the complaints about the last two Maori Council elections, and all funding granted by the Ministry to the Maori Council since 2018.

[...] all information the Ministry holds regarding allegations of fraud and misrepresentation regarding Matthew Tukaki, and complaints made in regard to Matthew Tukaki transferring a contract with the Ministry of Social Development from the Maori Council to the National Maori Authority, as reported at this link - <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/authority-of-government-contract-questioned>

[...] all information the Ministry holds regarding the matters reported on at this link and the complaints regarding Tukaki's unauthorised use of Maori Council funds and access to bank accounts. <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/mori-council-seeks-police-inquiry-into-bank-funds>

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

We have answered your request in five parts:

Part 1 - [...] all information held by the Ministry regarding numerous complaints to the Maori Council regarding the triennial elections in 2018 and 2021

We have interpreted this part of your request to mean complaints made to the New Zealand Māori Council (NZMC) regarding the triennial elections in 2018 and 2021 that are held by Te Puni Kōkiri. Two documents have been identified in scope of your request. The documents and my decisions with regard to the release of the information are set out in the table attached as Appendix A.

Some information has been withheld in accordance with the Act on the following grounds:

- section 9(2)(a) – *in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.*

A small number of redactions have been marked as “out of scope”. These “out of scope” redactions relate to information that is not in scope of the above part of your request.

In making the decision to withhold information, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act.

Part 2 - all information regarding the subsequent inquiry into the complaints about the last two Maori Council elections

We have interpreted this part of your request to refer to any subsequent inquiry conducted by Te Puni Kōkiri regarding the last two elections of the NZMC. Te Puni Kōkiri did not undertake an inquiry into complaints about the last two NZMC elections, as such this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

Part 3 - all funding granted by the Ministry to the Maori Council since 2018

The following table breaks down the total funding Te Puni Kōkiri granted to the NZMC since the 2017/18 financial year:

Year	\$ (excl GST)
2017/18	\$278,435
2018/19	\$196,000
2019/20	\$303,000
2020/21	\$316,000
2021/22	\$645,760
2022/23	\$396,000

The table below outlines the amount paid to the NZMC relating to travel re-imbursments.

Year	\$ (excl GST)
2018/19	\$7,637
2019/20	\$1,553

Part 4 – [...] all information the Ministry holds regarding allegations of fraud and misrepresentation regarding Matthew Tukaki, and complaints made in regard to Matthew Tukaki transferring a contract with the Ministry of Social Development from the Maori Council to the National Maori Authority, as reported at this link - <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/authority-of-government-contract-questioned>

On 5 October 2023 we notified you that this part of your request was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development as the information to which this part of your request relates is not held by us but is believed to be held by the Ministry of Social Development. In these circumstances, we are required by section 14 of the Act to transfer your request.

You will hear further from the Ministry of Social Development concerning part 4 of your request.

Part 5 – [...] all information the Ministry holds regarding the matters reported on at this link and the complaints regarding Tukaki's unauthorised use of Maori Council funds and access to bank accounts. <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/mori-council-seeks-police-inquiry-into-bank-funds>

Te Puni Kōkiri does not hold information regarding the matters reported on in this link, specifically, complaints regarding Mr Tukaki's unauthorised use of NZMC funds and access to bank accounts. As such this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

I trust my response satisfies your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Te Puni Kōkiri publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address or contact details.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact us at oa@tpk.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Grace Smit

Hautū, Te Puni Whakahaere Tikanga | Deputy Secretary, Strategy, Finance and Performance

Appendix A – documents in scope of Part 1 - [...] all information held by the Ministry regarding numerous complaints to the Maori Council regarding the triennial elections in 2018 and 2021

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1.	31/05/2021	Correspondence between Archdeacon Emeritus Harvey Ruru QSM, Roimata Minhinnick, Executive Member Chair Tamaki Ki Te Tonga and George Ngatai QSM, Founder and Director of The Whanau Ora Community Clinic.	Released with certain information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
2.	25/07/2021	Email from Archdeacon Emeritus Harvey Ruru QSM to various Labour ministers. Note: The attachments to this email are out of scope of part 1 of your request.	Released with certain information withheld under section 9(2)(a)