

Jeremy Shaw  
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30 April 2024

Dear Jeremy,

**OIA 23-24-40: Funding provided to Te Hono and NZ Story**

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2024 to New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE), making a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You requested the following information:

*Please supply an annual breakdown of NZTE's funding support to Te Hono from 2015 to 2024.*

*Please supply an annual breakdown of NZTE's spending on staff travel to Te Hono events/meetings/conferences/retreats from 2016 to 2024, noting the location of the event, the title(s) of the person(s) attending, and the class of air travel (ie economy, premium economy, or business class if travelling internationally).*

*Please include a total accommodation cost for staff attending the above.*

*Please provide any documents produced since 2018 assessing the cost benefit/value of NZTE's funding support to Te Hono.*

*If no such documents exist, please explain why the cost/benefit of this funding has not been regularly assessed/reviewed.*

*Please provide any email correspondence/emails/letters or other documents between Te Hono or its representatives and NZTE regarding funding support or funding requests for the period between January 2022 and February 20, 2024.*

*Please supply a breakdown of NZTE's funding support for NZ Story annually for the past four years.*

*Please supply an annual breakdown of NZTE's spending on staff travel to NZ Story events/meetings/conferences/retreats from 2020 to 2024, noting the location of the event, the title(s) of the person(s) attending, and the class of air travel (ie economy, premium economy, or business class if travelling internationally).*

*Please include a total accommodation cost for staff attending the above.*

*Please provide any documents produced since 2020 assessing the cost benefit/value of NZTE's funding support to NZ Story.*

*If no such documents exist, please explain why the cost/benefit of this funding has not been regularly assessed/reviewed.*

*Please provide any email correspondence/emails/letters or other documents between NZ Story and its representatives and NZTE regarding funding support or funding requests for the period between January 2022 and February 20, 2024.*

Answers to your questions are as follows

*Please supply an annual breakdown of NZTE's funding support to Te Hono from 2015 to 2024.*

Please refer to Appendix One for an annual breakdown of NZTE's funding support to Te Hono from 2015 to 2024. We note that NZTE is not the sole contributor to Te Hono. We understand in the 2023/2024 financial year NZTE contributions are approximately 16.6% of Te Hono's total funding.

*Please supply an annual breakdown of NZTE's spending on staff travel to Te Hono events/meetings/conferences/retreats from 2016 to 2024, noting the location of the event, the title(s) of the person(s) attending, and the class of air travel (ie economy, premium economy, or business class if travelling internationally).*

NZTE doesn't keep a specific record of staff travel costs solely related to Te Hono events. This is because travel may cover a range of other business as usual activities. Where spending on staff travel and accommodation to Te Hono events from 2015 to 2024 has been specifically annotated, please refer to Appendix Two.

*Please include a total accommodation cost for staff attending the above.*

This information has been aggregated together and included in the breakdown of NZTE's spending on staff travel and accommodation in Appendix Two. NZTE does not capture the class of air travel in its records.

*Please provide any documents produced since 2018 assessing the cost benefit/value of NZTE's funding support to Te Hono.*

*If no such documents exist, please explain why the cost/benefit of this funding has not been regularly assessed/reviewed.*

Te Hono is a partnership between the leaders of Aotearoa New Zealand's food and fibre sector companies, iwi, and government agencies, established in 2011. Te Hono receives funding through public and private partnership between government agencies and private sponsors. NZTE's direct financial contribution to Te Hono is outlined in the question on NZTE's funding support.

Te Hono's purpose is to unite leaders from across the food and fibre sector to work together to drive the transformation of the primary industry in New Zealand. They do this by delivering a range of event-based activities designed to connect chief executives, industry leaders and government officials who want to create change in the New Zealand primary sector and agribusiness.

Between January 2018 and February 2024 Te Hono delivered over 45 events and activities that have been tracked in a table below.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Number of events/activities</b>
National Summit	2018	1
Design, tech summit and speaker engagement events	2018, 2021, 2022, 2023	15
Alumni meeting	2018	1
Volume to Value Leaders Forum	2019, 2024	2

Stanford Bootcamp; Covid-period NZ Bootcamps	2019, 2021, 2022, 2024	4
Speaker series	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023	24

**Note:** Covid-19 lockdowns and event restrictions impacted in-person event activity between 2020-2022

*Please provide any email correspondence/emails/letters or other documents between Te Hono or its representatives and NZTE regarding funding support or funding requests for the period between January 2022 and February 20, 2024.*

This information is attached in Appendix Three. As part of its Service Agreement with Te Hono, NZTE provides annual funding of \$200,000. The contract in place between NZTE and a third party is being withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA, to protect both the commercial position of the third party and the operation of a public private partnership. We confirm that the agreement is in place to manage the operations of Te Hono. It includes clauses relating:

- term of the agreement
- what roles are required to manage the operations of Te Hono (and who is in those roles); and
- the obligations of NZTE and the obligations of the third party under the agreement.

It also includes standard contractual clauses generally contained within a commercial agreement including governing law and jurisdiction clauses, and privity of contract.

*Please supply a breakdown of NZTE's funding support for NZ Story annually for the past four years.*

Please refer to the NZ Story Briefings to Incoming Ministers for information on NZTE's funding support for NZ Story. Briefings from July 2019, November 2020 and November 2023 can be found here: <https://www.nzte.govt.nz/page/government-publications-media>

*Please supply an annual breakdown of NZTE's spending on staff travel to NZ Story events/meetings/conferences/retreats from 2020 to 2024, noting the location of the event, the title(s) of the person(s) attending, and the class of air travel (ie economy, premium economy, or business class if travelling internationally).*

NZTE doesn't keep a specific record of staff travel costs that relate solely to NZ Story events. This is because travel may cover a range of other business as usual activities. Where spending on staff travel to NZ Story events from 2020 to 2024 has been specifically annotated, please refer to Appendix Four. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there were no in-person NZ Story events in 2020 and the first half of 2021. NZTE does not capture class of air travel in its records.

*Please include a total accommodation cost for staff attending the above.*

Please refer to Appendix Four for accommodation costs for NZTE staff attending NZ Story events.

*Please provide any documents produced since 2020 assessing the cost benefit/value of NZTE's funding support to NZ Story.*

*If no such documents exist, please explain why the cost/benefit of this funding has not been regularly assessed/reviewed.*

Please refer to the NZ Story Briefings to Incoming Ministers for November 2023 for information about NZ Story's operational targets and performance. The Briefing can be found here: <https://www.nzte.govt.nz/page/government-publications-media>

*Please provide any email correspondence/emails/letters or other documents between NZ Story and its representatives and NZTE regarding funding support or funding requests for the period between January 2022 and February 20, 2024.*

NZ Story is club funded by seven agencies: New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Education NZ, Tourism NZ, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Puni Kōkiri, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, along with central Crown funding. To ensure operational efficiency, NZ Story is housed within NZTE.

NZTE funding for NZ Story is \$500,000 per annum, funded through the *Collaborative activity and special events* appropriation, as noted in NZTE's Statement of Performance Expectations. As such, there is no annual correspondence between NZ Story and NZTE related to funding requests, as it is part of standard NZTE and NZ Story operations.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz) or freephone: 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Melissa Trochon  
**Director – Board & Ministerial**