



5 August 2024

John
fyi-request-27188-1b6a1fd6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2023/24-0942

Dear John

Official Information Act request relating to funding of He Whenua Taurikura

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 9 June 2024. You requested:

"I am requesting information that pertains to DPMC's funding of the charity (registration number: CC60963) He Whenua Taurikura.

1. According to He Whenua Taurikura's latest Performance Report (dated 15 December 2022 to 3 June 2023), it has not met any of the eight described outputs identified on page 6 of the report. I am requesting information, including academic publications, that indicates any output from He Whenua Taurikura to justify government funding.

2. I am requesting you provide the conditions or contractual arrangement that He Whenua Taurikura shares with DPMC that outlines the requirements with which He Whenua Taurikura must comply with to have received government funding and to continue to receive government funding.

3. If the conditions for the government funding He Whenua Taurikura are not met, what are the proposed consequences as they relate to government funding as per the agreement between DPMC and He Whenua Taurikura?"

We have numbered the parts of your request for ease of reference.

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days because consultations were required before a decision could be made on the request. We transferred part [1] of your request to Victoria University of Wellington as they hold the information relating to He Whenua Taurikura's performance report. We made this transfer of part [1] of your request to Victoria University of Wellington in error, and we will now be responding to your full request. We apologise for any confusion this has caused. Thank you for your patience as we processed your request.

Information being released

The Performance Report you refer to in part [1] of your request is an annual requirement of the He Whenua Taurikura - National Centre of Research Excellence Trust (the Trust) at the end of each financial year as part of maintaining their charitable status.

The Trust was established in 2022 to "fund, facilitate, and promote research into the prevention and countering of violent extremism in New Zealand". A Governance Board of trustees oversees the Centre's work. Please note that while the Trust, through the Governance Board, provides strategic direction and oversees the work of the research centre of the same name, they are separate legal entities.

The Performance Report includes a description of and reporting against the Trust’s outputs, consisting of the eleven areas that are specifically listed in the Deed of Trust. There are no targets or timeframes set for any of these outputs in the Performance Report. It is simply a list of, and reporting against to 30 June 2023, the Trust’s eleven overarching enduring purposes. The document is a Trust report assessing the extent to which the Trust had met its purposes for the period 15 December 2022 to 30 June 2023.

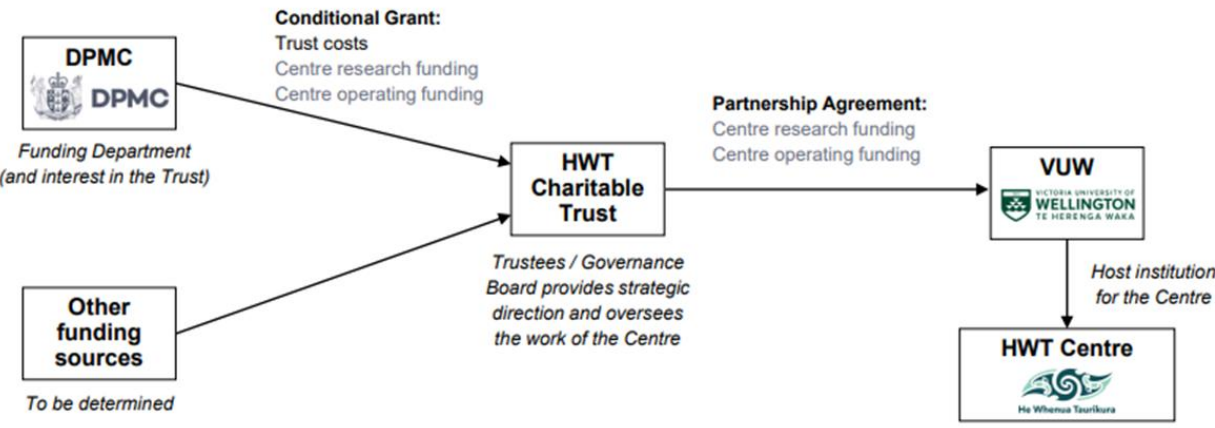
You will note on page 7 of the Performance Report that “*The following other outputs were achieved as were considered necessary and proper by the Trustees to further the below listed of the Trust's charitable purposes.*” and was achieved through “*A grant totalling \$1,325,000 paid to Victoria University of Wellington for the hosting and funding of the centre.*”

The performance reported here is distinct from the overall performance of the He Whenua Taurikura National Centre of Research Excellence (the HWT Centre), which had existed for a year by that point and had work well underway. However, that progress had been funded separately directly by DPMC prior to the Trust being established. The Trust’s Performance Report therefore necessarily does not reflect this progress made by the HWT Centre. Statements by the Trust against each of its outputs should therefore not be taken as assessments of the HWT Centre’s performance.

Regarding part [2] of your request, the following diagram shows the various funding and contractual arrangements between DPMC, the Trust, and the Research Centre.

The Centre is hosted by Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) and operates independently of Government, funded, and supported through the Trust.

DPMC does not have a direct funding relationship with the HWT Centre. Funding for the HWT Centre to date has been provided by DPMC through a conditional grant to the Trust, who then separately provide this funding to VUW for the HWT Centre.



A requirement of this conditional grant is that the Trust provide to DPMC within 3 months of completion of the Grant Period a report on:

- The Centre’s overall Strategic Plan, Annual Plan and Research Priorities, and progress against these during the grant period.
- The Centre’s year-to-date spend of this Grant against its annual budget.
- The Trust’s assessment of the extent to which the Centre has or is likely to meet its purposes, as set out in the Deed of Trust.

We have therefore decided to release to you the He Whenua Taurikura National Centre of Research Excellence DPMC Reporting Requirements Reporting Period 1 January 23 – 30 June 23 document provided by the Trust to DPMC, together with the response letter from DPMC to the Trust. These documents cover both part [1] and demonstrates compliance by the Trust with the conditions you requested information on in part [2]. Some information within this document has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion
- section 9(2)(a); to protect the privacy of individuals.

This report provides the Board's assessment of the extent to which the Trust's objectives have been met through the work of the Centre.

Regarding part [3] of your request, if the conditions for the funding are not met, DPMC would ask the Trust to renegotiate the annual plan with the HWT Centre through the conditional grant.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

We do not intend to publish this response on DPMC's website.

Yours sincerely

Bridget White
Executive Director
National Security Group