



1 August 2024

Catherine WGJ

By email: fyi-request-27502-3fb2ecd8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Catherine

Official information request for He Whenua Taurikura

I refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 4 July 2024:

*“Could you detail the financial relationship between HWT and Victoria University? This includes:
Any funding provided by Victoria University to HWT.
Any financial transactions from HWT to Victoria University.
Victoria University's role in funding the journal mentioned in Question 8 (if applicable).
Victoria University's involvement in the HWT scholarship application and screening process.
The percentage of the five HWT staff salaries/wages covered by Victoria University.
Any instances of HWT funding activities that benefit Victoria University, potentially replacing university funding due to budgetary constraints.”*

The He Whenua Taurikura - National Centre of Research Excellence Trust (the Trust) was established under the leadership of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to implement recommendation 14 of the Royal Commission of Inquiry report into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March 2019 to “establish a programme to fund independent New Zealand-specific research on the causes of, and measures to prevent, violent extremism and terrorism”.

Prior to the establishment of the Trust, Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington (the University) was selected to establish and host the He Whenua Taurikura National Centre of academic and research activity (the Centre) under a funding agreement between DPMC and the Research Trust of Victoria University of Wellington. The Centre has since been established at the University.

The Centre, as a centre of academic and research activity hosted by the University, does not have separate legal personality but is part of the University, as is the case with centres in New Zealand universities generally. As such, its staff, resources, and activities fall within the scope of the University's legal framework, statutes, policies, and accountabilities.

The Victoria University of Wellington Research Trust (on behalf of the University) receives funding from the Trust in order to fund the activities of the Centre. This relationship is governed by a Partnership Agreement between the University and the Trust. We have interpreted your questions as they relate to the Centre as the University does not provide funding to the Trust. Specific answers to your questions are as follows:

Any funding provided by Victoria University to HWT.

The University does not provide additional funding to the Centre over and above the funding provided by the Trust but does provide necessary resources such as office space, furniture, administration, corporate services, and security to enable the Centre to fulfil its purposes.

Any financial transactions from HWT to Victoria University.

The University received \$1,325,000 from the Trust in 2023 and \$1,325,000 in 2024 to fund the activities of the Centre. The University also received \$482,000 directly from DPMC in 2022 to fund the Centre.

Victoria University's role in funding the journal mentioned in Question 8 (if applicable).

The University does not have a role in funding the 'Crime Media Culture' journal. However, funding by the Centre was provided for a research assistant on a small fixed term contract to assist the joint editor of the Special Issue to collate responses from prospective contributors to the Special Issue and develop a brief overview of the literature.

Victoria University's involvement in the HWT scholarship application and screening process.

The initial HWT scholarship application and screening process was undertaken by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). Subsequent scholarship application rounds have been conducted by staff of the Centre on approval of the Trust board. This process is conducted separately from any other University scholarship processes.

Scholarships require a formal application and are awarded on the recommendations of the He Whenua Taurikura Research Committee. Further information on scholarships is available on the Centre's [website](#).

The percentage of the five HWT staff salaries/wages covered by Victoria University.

The operating funding provided by the Trust covers the salary costs of these staff members. The University does not provide any funding for salaries relating to Centre activities.

Any instances of HWT funding activities that benefit Victoria University, potentially replacing university funding due to budgetary constraints.

There are no instances of the Trust funding activities that benefit Victoria University. All decisions regarding the use of funding by the Centre are approved by the Trust.

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

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz.

Ngā mihi nui

Blair Doherty
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Legal Services
Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington