



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

15 September 2015

Sam Parata
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Dear Sam Parata

Information request: New Zealand Flag Consideration Panel governance costs

Our reference: DPMC 108–2015

- 1 On 24 August 2015, the Department of Internal Affairs transferred a request for information from you to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) under the Official Information Act 1982. Your request asked:

“I as a New Zealand citizen formally request that an expense breakdown of the Flag Consideration Panel Governance costs for the 2014/2015 be provided.

An electronic copy would suffice.”

- 2 The Cabinet papers relating to the New Zealand Flag consideration process, including the budget for the overall process, are available on DPMC’s website at the following link: <http://www.dPMC.govt.nz/dPMC/publications/nzflag-process>.
- 3 The decision to establish a new appropriation for ‘advice and services to support public engagement and decision-making in the process to consider New Zealand’s flag’ is outlined in the Cabinet minute CAB Min (14) 34/1.
- 4 The public consultation process is being led by the independent New Zealand Flag Consideration Panel (the Panel), supported by a Secretariat. The estimated cost of the public consideration process, broken down into the different aspects of the process, is included in the detailed budget at paragraph 63 of the Cabinet paper CAB (14) 541, as follows:

	\$	2014/15	2015/16	TOTAL
Public Consultation Process	Flag Consideration Panel Governance	\$232,520	\$232,520	\$465,040
	Communications and Engagement	\$2,740,000	\$1,261,000	\$4,001,000
	Website	\$644,000	\$132,000	\$776,000
	Public events and meetings	\$104,250	\$104,250	\$208,500
	Secretariat	\$665,401	\$613,236	\$1,278,637

	\$	2014/15	2015/16	TOTAL
	Total Public Consultation Process	\$4,386,171	\$2,343,006	\$6,729,177

- 5 You have asked specifically about governance costs. In accordance with the Cabinet Fees Framework, the Panel Chair receives \$850 per day and Panel members receive \$640 per day. (The Deputy Prime Minister's press release of 26 February 2015, 'Flag Consideration Panel members announced', refers: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/flag-consideration-panel-members-announced>.)
- 6 In addition to payment for attending meetings, governance costs include preparation time for meetings and events, along with travel costs, and reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred.
- 7 When the Panel's public engagement process began, it was anticipated members would attend approximately 7 meetings until the end of June 2015, and an additional 7 meetings through to the conclusion of the second referendum. It was also anticipated that the public engagement process would likely require additional participation from panel members. The total estimated time required of members was up to a maximum of 40 days over the course of the project (including preparation time and engagement participation).
- 8 Total actual governance costs for the 2014/15 year will be made public when they are available.

Yours sincerely



Michael Webster
Clerk of the Executive Council