

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

MP for Kelston

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Minister for Social Development and Employment

Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs (Pacific Region)



17 APR 2023

James

fyi-request-21715-056ae522@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe James

I refer to your request received on 3 February 2023, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for the following information:

On 3/02/2023 you announced funding of a one-off \$3 million investment to support the Waitangi Treaty Grounds.

Under the OIA please provide the following:

All correspondence including but not limited to, emails, texts and records of phone calls relating to the funding, inclusive of when and who requested the funding, when the funding was approved and by whom.

Before responding to your request, it is important to provide context about how this funding came to be. As you will see from the attached material, the nationally significant Waitangi Treaty Grounds are located on the Waitangi Estate. The grounds are managed by the Waitangi National Trust Board under the provisions of the Waitangi National Trust Board Act 1932.

While the grounds are normally self-sufficient, COVID-19 posed a serious risk to the Trust's management of the grounds, and affected the Trust's operations. The Government provided operational funding to the Trust post-Budget 2020 to support the Trust to achieve financial sustainability. This year's one-off allocation to the management of the Waitangi Treaty Grounds came from reprioritised funding from unspent allocations supporting the cultural sector through COVID-19, as part of the Vote Arts, Culture and Heritage appropriation.

Information being released

Please find enclosed the documents relevant to your request and described in the table below.

Please note that a search of my email inbox, text messages, and call logs have found no material relating to your request. However, the below advice and public relations material has been identified as falling within the scope of your request.

Item	Date	Document Description
1	26/10/2022	Aide Memoire (AM2022/525): Northland visit – Waitangi National Trust meeting
2	26/01/2023	Aide Memoire (AM23/006): Waitangi week 2023 – Arts, Culture and Heritage events
3	01/02/2023	Waitangi reprioritisation funding announcement press release
4	01/02/2023	Draft press release regarding Waitangi investment announcement

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- section 9(2)(ba)(i) – to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

In addition, some information has been marked as ‘out of scope’ of your request where the material is not relevant to the information you are seeking.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

Information publicly available

The following document is also covered by your request and is publicly available on the Manatū Taonga website at the link below:

Date	Document Description	Link
17/02/2023	BR23/045: Cabinet Paper – Reprioritisation of existing Cultural Recovery Package funding to continue support to the Arts, Culture and Heritage sectors.	https://mch.govt.nz/sites/default/files/projects/Reprioritisation-existing-cultural-recovery-funding-support-ach-sectors.pdf

Information being withheld

There is one additional document covered by your request that I have decided to withhold in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA. This is to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oia@mch.govt.nz.

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

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Manatū Taonga website.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage