19 October 2020

John Luke

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Dear John,

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your Official Information Act request dated 6 September 2020 for the below:

1. *How did we call for public applications for the External Data Quality Panel (EDQP), and what was the selection process for this panel?*
2. *What is the panel member’s fee of payment and their job description or terms of reference*
3. *Any other benefit they have received as part of the panel?*
4. *How many expressions of interest were received during the establishment process and how many were shortlisted, how many were interviewed*
5. *Please provide all meeting minutes since the establishment of the EDQP.*

The answers to your questions are outlined in the response bellow:

**How did we call for public applications for the External Data Quality Panel (EDQP), and what was the selection process for this panel?**

There was no public application process for the EDQP. Stats NZ brought together a panel that was well equipped to provide advice and assurance to support the delivery of the most robust and reliable final 2018 Census dataset possible. The panel of independent experts included a broad range of local and international demography, census model, and statistical methodology skills and experience. We also ensured that we had panel members who could bring a Te Ao Māori lens to the advice and assurance.

The panel included a mixture of people known to have the skill sets we were after, users of census data, and people who were critical of 2018 Census.

We phoned all the people we identified as appropriate to be on the panel and extended a verbal invitation. After they verbally agreed we followed up with a formal letter of appointment.

The appointed panel members were:

• Richard Bedford, Emeritus Professor, recently retired Professor of Population Geography, Auckland University of Technology and University of Waikato (Chair and spokesperson)

• Alison Reid, local government senior researcher, Auckland Council

• Barry Milne, expert data user, COMPASS Research Centre, University of Auckland

• Donna Cormack, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland; Senior Research Fellow, Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington; and Te Mana Raraunga (Māori Data Sovereignty Network)

• Ian Cope, international census expert, ex-Office of National Statistics (ONS), United Kingdom

• Len Cook, former New Zealand Government Statistician and former National Statistician of the United Kingdom

• Tahu Kukutai, Professor of Demography, National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis, University of Waikato; and Te Mana Raraunga

• Thomas Lumley, Professor of Biostatistics, University of Auckland..

**What is the panel member’s fee of payment and their job description or terms of reference?**

The daily fee was based on an 8-hour day. Pro-rata rates applied for work of less than 8 hours a day:

Chair: $1,062

Panel members: $800

Advice on the fee structure was sought from the Chief Executive Development Appointment and Remuneration team at the State Services Commission and approved by our then Chief Executive Liz MacPherson.

The full terms of reference can be found at <https://www.stats.govt.nz/reports/2018-census-external-data-quality-panel-terms-of-reference>.

**Any other benefit they have received as part of the panel**

No additional fees outside of the daily rate were paid. Travel costs (flights, accommodation, meals) were covered for any members who had to travel. The travel costs followed Stats NZ sensitive expenditure, including no reimbursement for any alcohol. During meetings morning teas and lunches were provided.

**How many expressions of interest were received during the establishment process and how many were shortlisted, how many were interviewed**

As noted above, there were no expressions of interest or interviews as panel members were appointed.

**Please provide all meeting minutes since the establishment of the EDQP.**

I have attached the minutes from formal joint meetings that Stats NZ held with the External Data Quality Panel. Stats NZ do not have copies of any minutes from meetings that the panel held independent of Stats NZ.

Once again, please accept my apologies for the lateness in responding to your OIA request.

Statistics NZ intends to publish its response to your request made under the Act on the Statistics NZ website. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Consistent with the Act, publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and helps promote balanced public debate.

Yours sincerely,



Kathy Connolly

**General Manager Census | Kaiwhakahaere Matua Tatauranga**

**Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa**