

12 July 2021

Micky Turner
fyi-request-15326-62f5ea38@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 87704

Dear Mr Turner

Official Information Act request: Waitangi Tribunal expenses

Thank you for your email of 3 May 2021 to the former Minister of Justice, Hon Andrew Little, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information relating to Waitangi Tribunal expenses since 1975. Specifically, you requested:

Can you please forward an overview of Waitangi Tribunal expenses since 1975?

Including a breakdown of how much has been paid out to:

Judges

Lawyers (Crown & Claimant)

Administration

Year by year if possible (preferably adjusted for inflation).

On 3 May 2021, the Ministry of Justice acknowledged your request and notified you that your request had been transferred to us for response.

On 17 June 2021, I contacted you to apologise for the delay in responding to your query. Your request was not actioned within my team when you contacted us in May and, as a result, this response is being provided to you outside of the required timeframes specified in the Act. I again apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

In response to your request for “*an overview of Waitangi Tribunal expenses since 1975*”, the following table sets out the legal aid and Tribunal expenses for the Waitangi Tribunal from 2003/04 to 2019/20.

Waitangi Tribunal expenses for the period 2003/04 to 2019/20

Financial year	Legal aid expenses	Tribunal costs	Total expenses
2003/04	6,901,000	5,714,203	12,615,203
2004/05	11,059,000	5,978,187	17,037,187
2005/06	10,406,000	6,525,468	16,931,468
2006/07	13,803,000	6,931,709	20,734,709
2007/08	10,957,000	8,322,934	19,279,934
2008/09	14,203,000	7,919,878	22,122,878
2009/10	16,410,000	8,408,599	24,818,599
2010/11	16,350,000	8,258,463	24,608,463
2011/12	12,642,289	7,997,622	20,639,911
2012/13	9,161,990	8,469,601	17,631,591
2013/14	12,503,122	7,960,976	20,464,098
2014/15	13,879,009	8,093,441	21,972,449
2015/16	13,663,534	7,023,718	20,687,252
2016/17	15,487,388	9,868,790	25,356,178
2017/18	15,871,030	8,003,902	23,874,932
2018/19	16,409,801	9,012,087	25,421,888
2019/20	15,181,263	9,334,842	24,516,104

You also requested a “breakdown of how much has been paid out to Judges, Lawyers (Crown & Claimant) Administration. Year by year...” The Ministry does not record this information and I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) because this information is not held by the Ministry and I have no reason to believe it is held by another organisation that is subject to the Act.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Jenna Bottcher Hansen
Manager, Ministerial Relations and Services