

Ref: 208728

6 August 2021 Friday, 6 August 2021

Matthew O'Higgins
By email to fyi-request-16029-95587701@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Matthew,

Response to your request for Official Information

On 10 July 2021, you requested from the Human Rights Commission (“the Commission”)

- 1. Whether the Chief Human Rights Commissioner took advice on this specific matter of making a koha to the Waikato Mongrel Mob Kingdom prior to the visit, or whether it has been an already established general practice to give koha to gang pads or certain groups that naturally applied in that situation.*
- 2. All correspondences between the Chief Human Rights Commission or the Commissioner themselves with their advisers, officials, Members of Parliament, the Waikato Mongrel Mob Kingdom, their associates, patched members or spokespeople in which this piece of advice was 1. proposed as an idea (if any) and 2. suggested, given, recommended. It is also requested that included also are correspondences where it was agreed (by the Commissioner themselves or the Commission) that the Commissioner made the koha, or where it was acknowledged the need to make a koha.*
- 3. All correspondences between the Chief Human Rights Commission or the Commissioner themselves with their advisers, officials, Members of Parliament, the Waikato Mongrel Mob Kingdom, their associates, patched members or spokespeople in which any other advice was made, and/or any other idea proposed, on matters of tikanga (in relation to this event) and koha to the Waikato Mongrel Mob Kingdom.*
- 4. All correspondences between the Chief Human Rights Commission or the Commissioner themselves with their advisers, officials, Members of Parliament, the Waikato Mongrel Mob Kingdom, their associates, patched members or spokespeople regarding the specific advice on [or idea of] the amount of the koha.*
- 5. All correspondences between the Chief Human Rights Commission or the Commissioner themselves with their advisers, officials, Members of Parliament, the Waikato Mongrel Mob Kingdom, their associates, patched members or spokespeople which show \$200 was agreed to be the amount of koha (if these correspondences exist) and/or advice given to the Chief Commissioner that led them to make that amount of koha.*

In response to your requests, the Commission has provided a public response summarising the process that was undertaken in approving the Commission’s attendance at, and the koha for, the 1 May pōwhiri and hui with the Waikato Mongrel Mob Kingdom. This information is publicly available on our website under the *Official Information Act requests* section of our [Corporate and accountability information](#) page.

In further response to your requests, the Commission did not correspond with any external parties including Members of Parliament, the Waikato Mongrel Mob Kingdom, their associates, patched members or spokespeople about the koha, the tikanga around koha or the amount of koha.

For all other information requested, the Commission is refusing to provide that in order to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions between members of the Commission in the course of their duty and the protection of members of the Commission from improper pressure or harassment. The Commission has also considered it appropriate to refuse this

request as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research which would have a significant and unreasonable impact on the Commission's ability to carry out our other operations. The Commission considers that the need to withhold outweighs the public interest in providing this information.

Alternative avenues

If you are unhappy with this response, under the Official Information Act you are entitled to complain to the Ombudsman's Office. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or on freephone 0800 802 602.

If you have any further queries about this response, please feel free to contact me directly.

Nāku noa, nā

Jaimee Paenga
Legal Adviser