

22 October 2021

John Luke

By email: fyi-request-16474-2da8dc16@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Luke

Request for Official Information

We refer to your request for official information sent to the Board of Trustees of the National Provident Fund on 22 August 2021, in which you asked for:

- (a) the full meeting minutes of the Board of Trustees of the National Provident Fund from 1 January 2020 to now; and
- (b) the pay rate of each member (including whether Board members are paid per day or on an hourly rate) and any other expense reimbursement paid to each member since 1 January 2020.

We apologise for the delay in responding to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). As explained in our earlier email sent 8 October 2021, we understand your initial request sent via fyi.org.nz was inadvertently directed to our spam folder and we were unaware of it until the Office of the Ombudsmen notified us of the delay on 8 October 2021. We have now reviewed your request and respond substantively.

Meeting minutes

The OIA requires us to advise you of our decision on your request no later than 20 working days after we have received your request. However, the volume of documents that fall within the scope of your request mean it is not possible to release the documents within this timeframe and we require further time to prepare the documents for release. Our intention is to grant your request with certain information redacted in accordance with s 9 of the Act.

We note the Act favours disclosure of the documents. We expect to complete the review of the documents and apply the appropriate redactions within the next 14 weeks. We therefore notify you of an extension of the time to make our decision and release the requested Board minutes to 31 January 2022.

This timeframe is needed to allow the Board time to review the information prior to release, noting the meeting minutes contain private and commercially sensitive information. We will release the documents earlier if possible.

Board fees

The Board of Trustees of the National Provident Fund publishes its financial statements, including remuneration data of Board members, in its annual report. **Attached** is the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021, which confirms the total fees paid to individual Board members was \$215,000 and the total Board fees including expenses was \$230,000 (being \$15,000 paid in expenses). The Annual Report also records that all Board members were paid a reduced fee for six months in the past financial year to account for the impact of Covid-19.

The Board's Annual Report is tabled in the House of Representatives and is publicly available through the Parliament website should you require similar information in future (www.parliament.nz).

For your convenience, the following table sets out the annual fees paid to Board members, along with expenses reimbursed to Board members for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 August 2021:

Board members	Pay rate being the annual fees payable to each Board member	Expenses reimbursed 1/1/2020 to 31/8/2021
Edwards, L	30,800.04	1,953.36
Park, S	35,420.04	5,077.16
Mussett, D	35,420.04	1,532.07
Ansell, G	35,420.04	315.60
Schuck, E (Chair)	61,599.96	2,665.77
Ward, S (Deputy Chair)	44,275.08	167.50


As noted above, the Board fees are paid on an annual basis. The Board fees are approved by the Minister of Finance pursuant to Schedule 4 of the National Provident Fund Restructuring Act 1990.

Our contact details

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, please contact Philippa Drury at enquiries@npf.co.nz.

You also have the right to request the Ombudsmen review this decision. More information about the Ombudsmen is available at www.ombudsman.govt.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Philippa Drury
General Manager, Schemes