

Ministry of Social Development
56 The Terrace
The Aurora Centre
Wellington, 6011

NZMC Address for Service
19 Myrtle Street 15
Woburn
Lower Hutt, 5011

11 May 2022

Re: Whakatutuki Work Ready Programme

Tēnā koutou Ministry of Social Development,

1. The New Zealand Māori Council (“**NZMC**”) is a statutory body established by s 17 of the Māori Community Development Act 1962. It is part of a structure of “Māori Associations” created by that Act, the other Māori Associations being Māori Committees, Māori Executive Committees, and sixteen District Māori Councils. The NZMC’s membership is comprised of three representatives appointed by each of the sixteen District Māori Councils totalling 48 members.
2. On 26 October 2021 and 2 November 2021, the NZMC wrote to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (“**MBIE**”) to request information under the Official Information Act 1982 (“**OIA**”) concerning contracts between MBIE and the NZMC, specifically those entered into between MBIE and Matt Tukaki. This is because Mr Tukaki was formally a member of NZMC between February 2018 and February 2021.
3. On 15 November 2021 the NZMC received a response from MBIE that it was transferring the request to the Ministry of Social Development (“**MSD**”) in accordance with Section 14 of the OIA. MSD’s response to the NZMC’s request revealed that Mr Tukaki authorised the NZMC to enter an agreement with MBIE, which commenced on 17 March 2021 for a value of \$965,896 over two years (the “**Agreement**”). It is in regard to this agreement that the NZMC writes to you today.
4. The Agreement was for funding to promote community development for Māori in the Benneydale rohe to deliver the “Whakatutuki Work Ready Programme” for Rangatahi aged 18-24 who are not currently in employment, education or training in Bennydale, Waimiha, Ongarue and Te Kuiti. The Project involves 6-month intensive programmes

delivered to 4 cohorts of 15 rangatahi each. The project will be delivered over 2 years with 2 cohorts per year and will be structured in modules.

5. This agreement was authorised on behalf of NZMC by Mr Tukaki on 13 March 2021, and Ms Diane Tuari on 3 March 2021, without the knowledge, consent or authority of the NZMC to enter the Agreement. Nathan Grennell, Director of MBIE, signed on 17 March 2021. Neither Mr Tukaki, nor Ms Tuari, advised NZMC Executive members or Chairman (Ven Harvey Ruru) of the Agreement. Ms Tuari has never held a leadership role on NZMC.
6. On 22 April 2021, MBIE made one payment to the NZMC of \$153,147 (\$133,172 + GST) upon commencement and conditions precedent being met. The NZMC had no knowledge that this money was transferred into its accounts because all financial records were managed hands-on by Mr Tukaki. To this day NZMC has none of its financial records for this relevant period. Mr Tukaki removed the financial records on his departure from NZMC and refuses to give them back.
7. On 1 July 2021, all He Poutama Rangatahi agreements were transitioned from MBIE to Ministry of Social Development (“**MSD**”) including the Whakatutuki Work Ready Programme.
8. On 1 September 2021, the Agreement was purportedly novated/transferred to the National Māori Authority Incorporated (“**NMA**”), and the NZMC was released and discharged from the agreement. This agreement to novate/transfer was signed for on behalf of MSD by Hugh Miller, Group General Manager of Employment, on 08 September 2021. Diane Tuari signed the Agreement again but this time on behalf of the National Māori Authority as Chief Executive on 05 September 2021. Mr Tukaki signed on behalf of the NZMC purporting to be the Executive Director on 05 September 2021.
9. By 5 September 2021, Mr Tukaki held no position within the NZMC whatsoever. He had no authority to novate an NZMC contract. He knew that this was the case because he had taken and lost a High Court application to try to stop the control of the NZMC passing to new office holders. A copy of the High Court decision is **enclosed**.
10. Mr Tukaki is the Chairperson of the NMA. Since departing the NZMC, Mr Tukaki has been promoting the NMA as a rival organisation to the NZMC. The NZMC is concerned that he has been using the NZMC’s information to do this, including the



Te Kaunihera Māori o Aotearoa
New Zealand Māori Council

NZMC's data base of all of its members and their contact details which he acquired when he was working at NZMC.

11. No members of NZMC leadership or DMC Chairs had any knowledge of this contract or that Mr Tukaki had novated away from NZMC. By novating the contract and transferring it from the NZMC to the NMA he was clearly acting against the NZMC's interests and for the benefit of his own rival organisation.
12. This transfer raised a number of other issues where Mr Tukaki held himself out as being in charge of NZMC and retaining NZMC's confidential information and using it for his own benefit. Mr Tukaki has continued to act in this way and the NZMC is now forced to take measures to stop his behaviour.
13. The NZMC objects to the way the Agreement has been mishandled by both Mr Tukaki and MSD, and again requests that copies of all contracts between MSD and Mr Tukaki involving NZMC are released to us pursuant to the Official Information Act request lodged in October 2021.
14. Further, the NZMC would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the appropriate and authorised personnel at MSD via Zoom to discuss this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Fraser". A blue arrow points from the signature towards the typed name below.

Peter Fraser

National Secretary

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
15 Stout St
Wellington 6011

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Peter Fraser

National Secretary

From: [Ruth Laugesen](#)
To: [Ruth Laugesen](#)
Subject: FW: Complaint received by Kānoa – RDU: New Zealand Maori Council letter to MBIE **Out of scope**
Date: Wednesday, 14 September 2022 10:02:16 am

From: Andrew Mcnaught <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>
Date: 19 May 2022 at 7:05:20 AM NZST
To: Amy Henare <[xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](#)>, Stephen Ruddell <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](#)>
Cc: Nathan Grennell <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>
Subject: **FW: Complaint received by Kānoa – RDU: New Zealand Maori Council letter to MBIE** **Out of scope**

Good morning Amy/Stephen,
See below an update where we are at. We can discuss this on Friday.
Cheers

Andrew

From: Tane Dewes <[xxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 May 2022 4:59 pm
To: RDU OSI <[xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; Eleanor Green <[xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; Andrew Mcnaught <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; Kate TE Morenga <[xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; Leah MacDonell <[xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; Jo-Anne Taylor <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>
Cc: Tania Paweska <[xxxxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; Megan Allday <[xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; Erika Harrison <[xxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; Nathan Grennell <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>; Ashleigh Turner <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#)>
Subject: RE: Complaint received by Kānoa – RDU: New Zealand Maori Council letter to MBIE **Out of scope**
Sensitivity: **Out of scope**

Kia ora koutou,

Sorry to jump on the waka a little late, but going through the material provided and discussing with both Isabel and Elle we collectively agreed that this is a little more serious than a complaint and are treating it as a dispute.

Elle will be taking the lead on this and OSI can support in an administrative capacity. Elle, I can confirm that not sought legal advice yet, so will leave that up to you as discussed.

Andrew will be touching base with MSD to gather information on Friday and will advise the outcome of this meeting, but no documentation gathering is happening yet at this stage.

As per email below, OSI will be in contact with NZMC to advise that Kānoa – RDU has received their request (and their OIA request for a copy of the funding agreement) and is working through the necessary steps to address it. The OIA has to be addressed by 9 June, even though he already has a copy of the contract, that was provided by MSD and not us, so MBIE will have to supply a copy as well.

Elle, would you also like OSI to set up weekly catch ups to keep track of how this is progressing??

Ngā mihi

Tane Dewes

From: RDU OSI <RDU_xxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Sent: Tuesday, 17 May 2022 3:49 PM

To: Eleanor Green <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Andrew Mcnaught <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Kate TE Morenga <xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Leah MacDonell <xxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Cc: Tania Paweska <xxxxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Megan Allday <xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; RDU OSI <xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Tane Dewes <xxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Erika Harrison <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Nathan Grennell <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Ashleigh Turner <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

Subject: Complaint received by Kānoa – RDU: New Zealand Maori Council letter to MBIE **Out of scope**

Importance: High

Sensitivity: **Out of scope**

Kia ora all,

Please see the attached complaint received by Kānoa – RDU on Monday 16 May 2022 (and the link to the media article: <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/authority-of-government-contract-questioned>).

This complaint has been identified as a high risk/profile due to:

1. Media involvement
2. Legal advice required (possibly)
3. Risk to Kānoa's reputation (possibly)
4. Suggestion of illegal activities

From what we have identified, this has been an ongoing issue before it was raised as a complaint to Kānoa – RDU, as evidenced by recent media requests.

OSI will be in contact with the complainant to advise that Kānoa – RDU has received their complaint (and their OIA request for a copy of the funding agreement) and is working through the necessary steps to address it.

As per Kānoa – RDU's [complaints process documents](#), this complaint will require a response from Robert's Office with the support of Leah as the Tier 3 manager, and Andrew as the relevant SME.

The next steps and recommended timeframes to complete them are outlined below:

1. Consult MSD, legal and other relevant bodies for expert advice – 5 working days
2. Draft a summary of the findings – 5 working days
3. Draft a response to the complaint – 5 working days
4. Finalise the response and send it to RDU_xxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx to reply to the complainant

The final response is due to the complainant on **Tuesday 14 June 2022**. Note the OIA response will be due no later than 9 June (as the request was first received by MBIE on 11 May).

Many thanks and kind regards,

Navdha (Noda) Raniga

ADVISOR – OPERATIONS SUPPORT AND IMPROVEMENT

Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx

Level 8, 15 Stout Street, Wellington 6011

www.govt.nz - your guide to finding and using New Zealand government services

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