



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

4 April 2024

CHARITIES SERVICES

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James
via FYI.org.nz

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Sent via email to:

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Tēnā koe James

Official Information Act 1982 Request – OIA 2324-0697

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was received by the Department of Internal Affairs on 6 March 2024. You have requested the following:

- 1. The total hours spent to date on the investigation into the Waipareira Trust by Charities Services at the Department of Internal Affairs, which first began in 2019.*
- 2. The number of charities over the last 6 years where the investigation has taken longer than 3 years, longer than 4 years, and longer than 5 years.*
- 3. How many open investigations are there that have taken longer than 2 years, 3 years, 4 years and 5 years?*
- 4. What is the longest investigation to date of a charity?*
- 5. What is the average length of time taken for an investigation into a charity in NZ?*
- 6. Have any outside legal consultants or experts been used on the investigation into the Waipareira Trust, if so what is the cost to date? Please provide the names of the legal experts used, if any.*
- 7. Any communications concerning the investigation into the Waipareira Trust between the DIA and the Minister of DIA between 2019 and February 2024.*

We have broken down our response into two parts, first in relation to data held by Charities Services in relation to Investigations (questions 2 to 5) it has undertaken over the last six years and secondly in respect to information relating to Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust (the Trust) (questions 1, 6 and 7).

Investigation Data

Question 2

We have collated all investigations which have been completed by Charities Services since 1 July 2018.

Please note that the way we record the length of time investigations are open includes all days between the date an investigation was opened and closed. This includes weekends and public holidays and does not account for times when inquiries are put on hold, including if there was a third-party interest (other investigation, prosecution etc). This means that the total time does not closely reflect the active time an investigation was being worked on.

Financial Year (FY)	Longer than 3 years	Longer than 4 years	Longer than 5 years
FY18	1	1	0
FY19	0	0	0
FY20	0	0	0
FY21	3	0	0
FY22	0	0	0
FY23	1	0	1

Question 3

Our oldest open investigation has been open for 2 years 5 months. No other current investigations are older than 2 years.

Question 4

The longest investigation we have on record took 5 years 9 months. This investigation is dated from 2009 and on review of the documents we hold it would appear that there were significant periods where the investigation was on hold pending the actions of a third party.

Question 5

The average length of time taken for an investigation into a charity in New Zealand since 1 July 2018 is 1 year and 4 months.

Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust

Question 1

I can confirm that Charities Services does not keep records of the total hours spent on investigations, instead we record the total days an investigation is open.

Because the information you have requested does not exist, this aspect of your request has been refused under section 18(e) of the Act; the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Questions 6 and 7

As you may be aware, Charities Services has a current investigation into the Trust. Because of this all information we hold within scope of questions 6 and 7 has been withheld under section 6(c) of the Act; the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my decisions about your request by the Ombudsman pursuant to section 28(1) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted by writing to PO Box 10-152, Wellington or by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Penelope Cox
Manager Regulatory
Charities Services