

Reference: 20240444



22 July 2024

Harry Chan
fyi-request-27347-ea925514@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Harry

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 23 June 2024. You requested the following:

I would like to understand how your governance/appointment decisions have impacted the financial efficiency and focus of organisations that you appoint Directors to.

a. What expectation have Treasury set, where you have appointed Directors, to pursue a 'traditional' Māori focused agenda. i.e. expectations set with Chairs or Deputy Chairs of Boards by Treasury Officials.

b. What is the spend in current FY (to 30.06.24) of each State Owned Enterprise that you monitor on Māori cultural competency, engagement, work, Miki whataku (and anything similar) and costs of those staff who have been recruited into Māori focused roles (salary, expenses etc) and consultants engaged to in relation to anything related to the above. How are those costs projected to change next FY for each organisation?

The Treasury does not hold information relating to part B of your request and on 8 July 2024 we transferred this part of your request under section 14(b)(i) of the Official Information Act to each of the State-Owned Enterprises, except for Electricity Corporation of New Zealand Ltd who have no staff or premises.

Regarding part A of your request, the Treasury does not set expectations with chairs or deputy chairs to pursue a 'traditional' Māori focused agenda. Ministers express their performance expectations of each board through a letter, to the chair or deputy chair, that contains specific and enduring expectations for each company or entity. The letters for the 2024/25 period are published on the Treasury website here: [Shareholder Expectations Letters 2024/25 Information Release | The Treasury New Zealand](#)

The Treasury does not appoint directors to Crown Boards to pursue a 'traditional' Māori focused agenda. The selection process for appointing new directors prioritises the performance of the company or entity, along with the composition of its members, ensuring a diverse blend of experiences, skills, backgrounds, and demographic representation. Additionally, we consider alignment with Crown objectives, and specific expertise, conduct, and traits attributed to high-performing governors. This approach empowers us to bolster board performance, ensuring the pursuit of excellence in governance that mirrors New Zealand's diverse population and underscores the Crown's commitment to outstanding public sector performance.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Stella Kotrotsos
Manager, Governance & Appointments