



18 October 2024

WGJ

By email: fyi-request-28468-0870f849@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe WGJ

Official information request regarding the He Whenua Taurikura National Centre of Research Excellence

I refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 21 September 2024:

1. *13th August OIA response states the roles at the centre. Which are ALL sourced internally and not advertised. And subject to Victoria Collective agreement. You referred to documents for bands without disclosing what bands apply to what roles.*
 - 1.1 *What bands and \$ amounts are the following roles on? Director, Project Manager, Research Fellows x 2, Research Assistant x 1, Centre Manager x 1*
 - 1.2 *Are these roles fulltime?*
 - 1.3 *Part time roles: Are they employed in other roles at the University and get a separate pay for those. (Double Dipping or two separate work agreements?)*
2. *Further to the two Postgraduates that were selected without a formal process:*
 - 2.1 *What are their degrees in ? From BA to Post grad please.*
 - 2.2 *If new to this area of a study What engagement have, they done to ensure they understand the field of Violent extremism and terrorism? Security? Policing ? talked to police for example. Sought out those academics for discussions? To ensure objectivity and not just write to an agenda.*
 - 2.3 *Depending on the degrees above: preventing radicalisation is a major academic field of its own– anyone can see that in a google search and it clearly needs specialist field expertise. What are these two Post grads doing to ensure they obtain that ?*
3. *The Centre's research Committee assess applications as per the previous OIA. Can you provide a link to that as this is not clear on the website as to who this panel is?*
 - 3.1 *Do research associates attend meetings or gather together. If so, do they get travel and accommodation paid for?*

3.2 if yes please provide a breakdown of costs – NOT personal details.

4. Your response mentioned that “policy briefs” will be prepared.
 - 4.1 Who for ?
 - 4.2 Are these prepared by the HWT centre staff?
 - 4.3 If not the HWT staff then who ?
 - 4.4 If not the HWT staff then is it another body at Victoria University ?
 - 4.5 If another body such as Victoria University, then what measures are taken to include other universities and experts?
 - 4.6 If including other experts and academics and run by Victoria University will Victoria dictate the research others work with?
 - 4.7 If assigned to Victoria University who made that decision and why is it still siloed to one university or one place?
5. In the last OIA the response says that the “research assistant” is funded to be a editor of a [questionable] journal.
 - 5.1 Is it not true that assistant is actually a Victoria University Professor with a new focus on these areas and a history in crime only ?
6. The handpicked postgraduates are they funded or paid? The Budget reflects there are three of them and all are Victoria university personal
 - 6.1 Will they get additional qualifications from this?
 - 6.2 If yes to the above what are their fees being covered? Total fees.
 - 6.3 if fees are covered why is this not subject to the same application process as Phds and Masters ?
7. What is the cost of the Koroareka Writing Retreat for the centre staff ?
 - 7.1 Is this something provided to all students or just the Victoria University Post Grads?
8. Is the Summer Scholarships referred to in the budget sheets active?
 - 8.1 if so who selects those students

1. 13th August OIA response states the roles at the centre. Which are ALL sourced internally and not advertised. And subject to Victoria Collective agreement. You referred to documents for bands without disclosing what bands apply to what roles.

1.1 What bands and \$ amounts are the following roles on? Director, Project Manager, Research Fellows x 2, Research Assistant x 1, Centre Manager x 1

1.2 Are these roles fulltime?

Role	Band	Range	Fulltime/Part time
Director	Professorial salary range	\$155,171 - \$191,738	Part time
Project Manager	Professional Staff Band 6	\$63,264 - \$87,831	Fulltime
Research Fellow	Research Fellow salary range	\$86,776 - \$102,221	Fulltime
Research Assistant	Research Assistant salary range	\$53,568 - \$77,340	Part time (no longer employed in HTW)
Centre Manager	Professional Staff Band 7	\$71,542 - \$99,792	Part time

1.3 Part time roles: Are they employed in other roles at the University and get a separate pay for those. (Double Dipping or two separate work agreements?)

The Director is employed full time by the university but is on secondment from another role in the University. The Director works 0.8 FTE at He Whenua Taurikura. The remaining 0.2 FTE is with the department from which the Director is seconded. The Centre Manager is employed part time by the university to work in He Whenua Taurikura.

2. Further to the two Postgraduates that were selected without a formal process:

2.1 What are their degrees in ? From BA to Post grad please.

Both post-doctoral fellows have degrees to PhD level in fields appropriate to their current research and the work of He Whenua Taurikura. Further information regarding the qualifications of employees is withheld in accordance with s9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

2.2 If new to this area of a study What engagement have, they done to ensure they understand the field of Violent extremism and terrorism? Security? Policing ? talked to police for example. Sought out those academics for discussions? To ensure objectivity and not just write to an agenda.

Post-doctoral fellows were employed on the basis of their doctoral research which is of relevance to the work of He Whenua Taurikura. Post-doctoral fellows engage with other academics in the security, criminology, policing and other fields regularly.

2.3 Depending on the degrees above: preventing radicalisation is a major academic field of its own– anyone can see that in a google search and it clearly needs specialist field expertise. What are these two Post grads doing to ensure they obtain that ?

Radicalisation is not an academic field of its own. Both post-doctoral fellows have completed research in the domain of political activism which incorporates radicalisation.

3. The Centre's research Committee assess applications as per the previous OIA. Can you provide a link to that as this is not clear on the website as to who this panel is?

<https://hwt.ac.nz/our-people/>

3.1 Do research associates attend meetings or gather together. If so, do they get travel and accommodation paid for?

He Whenua Taurikura has hosted one hui for research associates in 2024. Other engagements are online as needed.

3.2 if yes please provide a breakdown of costs – NOT personal details.

Travel	\$3696
Accommodation	\$894
Total	\$4590

4. Your response mentioned that “policy briefs” will be prepared.

4.1 Who for ?

Policy briefs are produced in line with HWT objectives to generate research and build public partnerships and engagement. Currently there is one policy brief being prepared. When completed, the policy briefs will be posted online for whomever is interested in reading them.

4.2 Are these prepared by the HWT centre staff?

4.3 If not the HWT staff then who ?

4.4 If not the HWT staff then is it another body at Victoria University ?

4.5 If another body such as Victoria University, then what measures are taken to include other universities and experts?

The policy brief is currently being prepared by a Centre staff member. It is anticipated that future policy briefs will be prepared by both He Whenua Taurikura staff and other academics at both VUW and other universities and organisations. He Whenua Taurikura is working closely with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to identify academics from a range of universities to work on policy briefs and other research outputs.

4.6 If including other experts and academics and run by Victoria University will Victoria dictate the research others work with?

Te Herenga Waka does not “dictate” research. It facilitates research, which is the role of all universities.

4.7 If assigned to Victoria University who made that decision and why is it still siloed to one university or one place?

N/A - staff at other universities are involved.

5. In the last OIA the response says that the “research assistant” is funded to be a editor of a [questionable] journal .

5.1 Is it not true that assistant is actually a Victoria University Professor with a new focus on these areas and a history in crime only ?

No.

6. The handpicked postgraduates are they funded or paid? The Budget reflects there are three of them and all are Victoria university personal

As per the answer to question 1.2, post-doctoral fellows are employed by the University.

6.1 Will they get additional qualifications from this?

No

6.2 If yes to the above what are their fees being covered? Total fees.

N/A

6.3 if fees are covered why is this not subject to the same application process as Phds and Masters ?

N/A

7. What is the cost of the Koroareka Writing Retreat for the centre staff ?

\$7605. A breakdown of these costs is as follows:

	Per person	Total
Food	\$97	\$483
Travel	\$198	\$991
Accommodation	\$732 (\$183 per night)	\$3658
Venue/ catering costs	\$495	\$2473

7.1 Is this something provided to all students or just the Victoria University Post Grads?

Participants came from Victoria University Wellington, Otago University, Massey University, University of Auckland, and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa.

8. Is the Summer Scholarships referred to in the budget sheets active?

No.

8.1 if so who selects those students

N/A

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions made regarding this request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz.

Ngā mihi nui

Blair Doherty
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy
Legal Services
Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington