

5 November 2024

Cody Ellingham  
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Dear Cody

### **Official Information Act (OIA) request for costs for RBNZ economics research conference speakers**

We refer to your request to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand – Te Pūtea Matua (RBNZ) of 10 October 2024 for the following:

*The Reserve Bank of New Zealand is organising a research conference "35 years of flexible inflation targeting - challenges and opportunities" to be held in March 2025, with the stated aim of understanding the challenges to flexible inflation targeting.*

*Please release the following information:*

*A breakdown of costs (including travel, accommodation, speaking fees, and any other costs) associated with the keynote speakers, Dr. Ben S. Bernanke and Dr. Catherine Mann participating in this event.*

#### **Background**

The RBNZ's research conference is one of the premier conferences for applied macroeconomics in the Australasian region. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the conference has not been held since 2018.

More information on the upcoming conference for 2025 can be found at the following link: <https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/news-and-events/our-korero-speaking-and-engagement-programme/35-years-of-flexible-inflation-targeting>

The research papers for this conference are targeted at central bank researchers and an academic audience involved in macroeconomics and banking. The RBNZ research conference has supported the transfer of technical know-how from international experts to our staff. This improves the technical depth of staff analysis and lifts the quality of the policy advice delivered to the Monetary Policy Committee.

The RBNZ will publish the research papers on our website following the conference.

#### **Response**

No costs have yet been incurred for the conference speakers, Dr Ben Bernanke and Dr Catherine Mann. Neither speaker will be paid a speaker's fee, however the RBNZ does intend to meet the following costs for each speaker:

Dr Ben Bernanke

- Return business class travel between United States and New Zealand (approximately \$15,000).

- Two dinners.
- Catering costs associated with attendance at workshop.

Dr Catherine Mann

- Return business class travel between UK and New Zealand (approximately \$15,000).
- Accommodation during conference.
- Two dinners.
- Catering costs associated with attendance at workshop.

Aside from estimated flight costs, other costs are yet to be paid and are subject to change.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this Official Information Act response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

We intend to publish this response on the Reserve Bank's website at: [www.rbnz.govt.nz/research-and-publications/official-information-requests](http://www.rbnz.govt.nz/research-and-publications/official-information-requests). We do this in order to improve transparency and provide an additional resource for anyone seeking information.

Yours sincerely

Government Relations  
Reserve Bank of New Zealand – Te Pūtea Matua