

J Floyd
fyi-request-28806-e63d88ac@requests.fyi.org.nz

20 December 2024

Dear J Floyd,

OIA 24-25-31: External Role Approval GM Investment

Thank you for your email of 18 October to New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE), making a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 18 November we extended the timeframe for your response by five weeks to 23 December. You requested the following information:

1. *Please provide the process through which external roles taken by lead team members (for example, directorships) are approved.*
2. *Please provide any information on the approval of Dylan Lawrence to the board of Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga AHC Limited.*
3. *Please provide any internal papers outlining the approval processes of the approximately \$90,000 of prefeasibility funding overseen by Dylan Lawrence that was spent on feasibility of waste wood treatment in the Timaru area (similar to the business model of Ngati Raukawa's investee company, Waste Transformation Limited).*
4. *Please provide any internal papers informing either the CEO or the Board of this potential conflict.*

Answers to your questions are as follows.

1. NZTE employees must declare all known and relevant interests when they join NZTE, promptly after their circumstances change, and annually in March (even if it is a nil declaration). Declarations are recorded in NZTE's Declaration of Interest system. For all potential conflicts of interest, a management plan must be put in place and the declaration reviewed and approved by the person's People Leader and General Manager (for the Lead Team this is the Chief Executive). NZTE employees (including the Lead Team) must ask their leader for approval before accepting any governance role.
2. NZTE is refusing this part of the request under s18(g) as it does not hold or collect information on the process that people undertake to be appointed to any external boards.
3. Please find the WTL – Prefeasibility Application attached as Appendix One. This was the only internal document identified in our search as part of the approval process for the prefeasibility study. Note there was also a signed contract for services between NZTE and Raukawa ki te Tonga AHC.
4. This interest was declared and approved on NZTE's Declaration of Interest system at the time that Dylan Lawrence was appointed to the board of Raukawa ki te Tonga AHC Limited. Detailed information in the case of Dylan Lawrence is being withheld under s9(2)(a) to protect his privacy.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz or freephone: 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Trochon', written in a cursive style.

Melissa Trochon
Director – Board & Ministerial