

2 September 2021

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 July 2021 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *All reports (in their entirety) that Mr Tukaki has produced as Chairman of the Ministerial advisory Board at Oranga Tamariki.*
- *I request the salaries of each of those board members; this includes yearly salary and amount received up to the lodgement of this request.*
- *For the the reports that my request brings up, I ask for an estimate of the amount the Crown has paid to Mr Tukaki to produce these (date range can be taken form the Board’s commencement date to the date of the final report.*
- *I also request all information that raise concerns about Mr Tukaki’s suitability and temperament for this position.*
- *I ask for the total amount that has been set aside by Oranga Tamariki for this advisory Board and how many meetings the Minister has had to date with Board.*
- *In the spirit of this request, if Mr Tukaki has requested additional funding from the department/ Minister on the Board’s behalf, I ask for receipt of such requests, the reply given, and the total in question.*
- *I also request any correspondence that refer to misuse of funds by Mr Tukaki, conflicts of interests, and internal complaints from employees within the Ministry regarding his behavior and lack of competence.*
- *I also request all information from outside individuals/ organization, including from Minister’s and their offices, that could be interpreted as advocating for Mr Tukaki’s appointment as chair.*

On 30 July 2021, we emailed you to advise that the following aspects of your request had been transferred to the Office of Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Children, for response:

- *I request under the OIA all reports (in their entirety) that Mr Tukaki has produced as Chairman of the Ministerial advisory Board at Oranga Tamariki.*
- *I request the salaries of each of those board members; this includes yearly salary.*
- *I also request all information that raise concerns about Mr Tukaki's suitability and temperament for this position.*
- *How many meetings the Minister has had to date with Board.*
- *If Mr Tukaki has requested additional funding from the Minister on the Board's behalf.*
- *I also request all information from outside individuals/ organization, including from Minister's and their offices, that could be interpreted as advocating for Mr Tukaki's appointment as chair.*

Please note, we also understand you contacted the Office of Hon Willie Jackson, Minister for Māori Development, with the same questions on 19 July 2021. Please consider this response, and the response from Hon Davis, as a response to your questions to Hon Jackson.

On 16 August 2021, you were advised that your request was extended in accordance with section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as the consultations necessary to make a decision were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original time limit.

The Oranga Tamariki Ministerial Advisory Board was established in February 2021 to provide independent advice and assurance to the Minister for Children on the progress of Oranga Tamariki across three key areas:

- its relationships with families, whānau, hapū, iwi, and Māori, including how it is devolving decision making and actions to Māori
- lifting professional social work practice
- the implementation of operational changes and enhancing its organisational culture.

For clarity, I will respond to each of your questions in turn.

- *I request the amount received up to the lodgement of this request.*
- *For the reports that my request brings up, I ask for an estimate of the amount the Crown has paid to Mr Tukaki to produce these (date range can be taken from the Board's commencement date to the date of the final report).*

Please note that the Ministerial Advisory Board members are not paid a salary, instead, the Ministerial Advisory Board is subject to the Cabinet Fees Framework, which pays members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest. Fees are assessed in accordance with the Cabinet Fees Framework and set by the appointing authority, which in this case is the Minister for Children. The Ministerial Advisory Board was assessed as falling within Group 4, Level 1 and, in

line with the Cabinet Fees Framework, the Minister recommended a fee of \$1,000 per day for the Chair and \$800 per day for members, for the duration of their appointment.

Additional information on the Cabinet Fees Framework can be found on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission website, via the following link:

<https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/our-work/fees/>

We can advise that the aggregated total spent on board members fees, as of 30 June 2021, is \$222,299.

We are unable to provide the amount Ministerial Advisory Board Chair, Matthew Tukaki, has received in fees to date, or the amount received by individual board members, as this would provide identifiable information about an individual's exact pay. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information. As such, these aspects of your request are refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

- *I ask for the total amount that has been set aside by Oranga Tamariki for this advisory Board*

The total amount of funding set aside for the Ministerial Advisory Board is \$2.58 million. This is a multi-year funding appropriation.

- *In the spirit of this request, if Mr Tukaki has requested additional funding from the department... I ask for receipt of such requests, the reply given, and the total in question.*

Mr Tukaki has made no requests to the Ministry for additional funding. As such, this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

- *I also request any correspondence that refer to misuse of funds by Mr Tukaki, conflicts of interests, and internal complaints from employees within the Ministry regarding his behavior and lack of competence.*

The Ministry has conducted a search for any correspondence that meets your description. One document and an associated email thread is considered in scope of the aspect regarding conflict of interests. Please find the following documents attached to this response:

- Document: *Conflict of Interest Register Matthew Tukaki, 2 February 2021*
- Email: *Re: Secretariat, payment of fees etc, 2 February 2021*

Please note, external email addresses and staff contact details are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

As of 19 July 2021, the Ministry has received no internal complaints or correspondence that refer to the misuse of funds, or internal complaints about the Chair's behaviour. As such, these aspects of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response to request for information regarding the Ministerial Advisory Board, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

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

Steve Groom
General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services