ORANGA TAMARIKI
Ministry for Children

OT-OIA-2026-0269

24 September 2026

s9(2)(a)
[redacted]
[redacted]

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 27 August 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on the welcome held for Oranga Tamariki Chief Executive Amanda Malu on 23 February 2026. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

1. *The total cost of the welcome, including a breakdown of:*
    - *venue or facilities*
    - *catering*
    - *travel and accommodation*
    - *koha*
    - *external speakers, performers, facilitators or other providers*
    - *photography or communications*
    - *any other associated costs.*
2. *The number of Oranga Tamariki staff who attended the welcome.*
3. *The duration of the welcome and, if recorded, the estimated cost of staff time associated with attendance.*
4. *Confirmation of whether any staff attending the welcome were permitted or instructed not to return to work for the remainder of 23 February 2026.*
5. *If so, please provide:*
    - *the number of staff concerned*
    - *the time from which staff were permitted to finish work*
    - *whether they continued to receive their normal pay for those hours*
    - *the estimated salary cost of those paid hours*
    - *who authorised the decision*
    - *the reason for the decision.*
6. *Copies of any emails, Teams messages, notices or other communications advising staff that they could finish work or take the remainder of the day off following the welcome.*
7. *Any policy, guidance or approval relied upon to provide paid time away from work following the event.*

I have responded to each part of your request below.

1. *The total cost of the welcome, including a breakdown of:*
    - *venue or facilities*
    - *catering*
    - *travel and accommodation*
    - *koha*
    - *external speakers, performers, facilitators or other providers*
    - *photography or communications*
    - *any other associated costs.*

Amanda Malu commenced her role as Chief Executive on 23 February 2026. There was an pōwhiri held at the Oranga Tamariki National Office to welcome her to the organisation.

Please find the breakdown of costs in Table One below associated with welcoming Amanda Malu. We did not incur costs for koha, photography and communications. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the department or venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

Table One: Welcoming expenditure for Amanda Malu, Chief Executive

Expenditure Type	**Cost (excl GST)**
Pōwhiri – manuhiri (culture advisors/support)	$1,300
Food and Beverages	$1,383
Travel and accommodation	$3,342
Total	$6,025

Please note that travel and accommodation costs were incurred for our Strategic Partners and the Youth Advisory Group members who attended the pōwhiri and additional meetings with Oranga Tamariki leaders in Wellington that afternoon.

2. *The number of Oranga Tamariki staff who attended the welcome.*

Fifty-six kaimahi were invited to attend the pōwhiri in person, and 51 accepted the invitation. The event was live streamed via Microsoft Teams, with a link that was provided to all kaimahi. As attendance was optional and not recorded, RSVPs were not requested for online participation. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, in that the information requested is not held by the department or venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

3. *The duration of the welcome and, if recorded, the estimated cost of staff time associated with attendance.*

The pōwhiri ran for 90 minutes which was followed by light refreshments. We are unable to make an estimate on the cost of staff time associated with the event. In order to provide this information, we would need to determine exactly who attended, what their salaries are to work out how much 90 minutes of their salary is. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, on the grounds that the information requested cannot be made without substantial collation or research.

4. *Confirmation of whether any staff attending the welcome were permitted or instructed not to return to work for the remainder of 23 February 2026.*

5. *If so, please provide:*
    - *the number of staff concerned*
    - *the time from which staff were permitted to finish work*
    - *whether they continued to receive their normal pay for those hours*
    - *the estimated salary cost of those paid hours*
    - *who authorised the decision*
    - *the reason for the decision.*

6. *Copies of any emails, Teams messages, notices or other communications advising staff that they could finish work or take the remainder of the day off following the welcome.*

7. *Any policy, guidance or approval relied upon to provide paid time away from work following the event.*

There were no permissions or instructions provided to staff attending the welcome to not return to work for the remainder of 23 February 2026.

We are not aware of any emails, Teams messages, notices or communications advising staff that they could finish work or take the remainder of the day off following the welcome and therefore no policy or guidance was relied upon as time away from work was not given. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist or despite reasonable efforts, cannot be found

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Stephanie Short
Chief of Staff
Oranga Tamariki