

17 April 2012

Mr Paul Stichbury  
179 Fitzherbert Avenue  
Palmerston North 4410

Dear Paul

**Request for official information**

I refer to your email dated 29 March 2012, in which you requested -

1. The total cost of the Turitea Board of Inquiry.
2. The total amount paid to former Judge Kenderdine, including all allowances, travel and accommodation costs, and sundry items, these to be itemised separately.
3. The total amount paid to each of the Board members, David Bunting, John Hudson, Chris Shenton, Richard Heerdegen, including all allowances, travel and accommodation costs, and sundry items, these to be itemised separately.

Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

In response to your request I enclose the following document:

- Spreadsheet outlining the following –
  1. Total cost of the Turitea Board of Inquiry process
  2. Total amount paid to the five combined Board members for Honorariums (salary), travel, accommodation, expenses/food/taxis, mileage, car rental and allowances.

The EPA has withheld itemising the costs for each individual Board member under section 18(a) of the OIA.

Section 18(a) of the OIA provides that requests for information may be refused when there is good reason for withholding the information. The EPA is withholding the information relevant to your request on the ground that the withholding of the information is necessary to "protect the privacy of natural persons..." (s 9(2)(a) of the OIA).




In making this decision the EPA has considered, in terms of s 9(1) of the OIA, whether the interest in withholding the information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

In this case we consider there is a public interest in the costs of the Turitea decision making Board, but in relation to detailed individual costs this is outweighed by the need to protect the privacy of those Board members. In addition, we note that the Board acted as a single decision making body, not as individuals. For these reasons, our view is that release of aggregated Board cost information is sufficient to meet the public interest element.

You have a right, by way of complaint to an Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review of this refusal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rob Forlong

Chief Executive



Jan-Dec 09	\$1,018,913.00
Jan-Dec 10	\$852,441.00
Jan-Dec 11	\$172,040.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,043,394.00</b>

Date	Honorarium	Travel	Accommodation	Expenses (food/taxis)	Mileage	Car Rental	Allowance
Stage 1 Totals (Dec08-Oct09)	\$197,074.07	\$5,196.62	\$16,053.23	\$6,119.67	\$4,120.96	\$451.64	\$518.50
Stage 2 Totals (Nov09-Nov11)	\$597,279.00	\$3,862.98	\$11,021.00	\$6,764.45	\$4,044.72	\$154.82	\$141.40
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$794,353.07</b>	<b>\$9,059.60</b>	<b>\$27,074.23</b>	<b>\$12,884.12</b>	<b>\$8,165.68</b>	<b>\$606.46</b>	<b>\$659.90</b>

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