

3 February 2023

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OIA 28468

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I refer to your email of 17 December 2022 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

- 1) The process that MFAT has followed to identify and appoint members of its new Board to advise on Tikanga Matters;*
- 2) What core criteria was used to select possible candidates for the new Board;*
- 3) Who was on the Interview Panel to assure appropriate governance oversight;*
- 4) What are the Terms of Reference for this new Board;*
- 5) What is the term of the Board appointments; and*
- 6) What remuneration will be paid to new Board Appointees!*

Our response is set out below using the numbering system in your request.

Question One

Individuals were identified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) to help form the membership of a Māori Partnership Group (the Group) to work alongside the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team to bring a Tirohanga Māori perspective to the strategic policy and organisational issues facing Manatū Aorere.

Members of the Group are well known to the Ministry through many years of providing guidance, support, and advice on strategic policy and organisational issues. They are recognised leaders and authorities within their Iwi and/or within their industry. They were identified based on these experiences and to complement existing partnerships across other Māori entities the Ministry works closely with. Also recognised in this selection was their standing and integrity in Te Ao Māori, their demonstrated success in various governance roles, and their unique understanding of the machinery of the Ministry.

The Group consists of the following members:

- Kura Moeahu – Te Āti Awa
- Traci Houpapa MNZM
- Ngahiwi Tomoana – Ngāti Kahungunu
- Jacqui Caine – Ngāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha
- Charlie Rahiri – Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangī, Ngāti Paoa

Question Two

The following attributes were essential (knowledge, skills, experience) in identifying possible candidates:

- Te Tiriti o Waitangi expertise and application
- Tikanga expertise
- Governance/leadership expertise
- Influence with key Māori and Iwi groups/collectives

Furthermore, many of these members are engaged by the Crown and Ministers in specialist areas across government to resolve complex and unique issues.

Question Three

No interviews were conducted, therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information you requested does not exist,

Individuals were identified and appointed by the Ministry based on their industry experiences, standing and integrity in Te Ao Māori, demonstrated success in various governance roles, and for their unique understanding of the machinery of the Ministry.

Question Four

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Group have not yet been developed. A process to establish a TOR and partnership model is under way, and will be discussed and co-designed with members of the Group, in line with the Ministry's commitment to ensuring that this group is an authentic partnership model.

Therefore we refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information you requested does not exist.

Question Five

The term for board appointments will be finalised during the development of the TOR. It is expected, however, that we will align with the guidance provided by the Crown Entities Act 2004 (CE Act), which sets the term of office for board members of Crown agents and Autonomous Crown Entities (ACE) at a maximum of 3 years.

Question Six

It is intended that members of the Group will be remunerated for their participation, preparation, and attendance to meetings using the [Cabinet Fees Framework](#) for members appointed to bodies in which the Crown has an interest.

Further information on the Group is available at: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/who-we-work-with/engagement-with-maori/maori-partnership-group/>.

The work of the Group is part of the Ministry's Mātauranga Māori Programme. Further information about this programme can be found at: <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/who-we-work-with/engagement-with-maori/>.

We hope that this OIA response will help explain why MFAT must broaden our engagement with Māori into other areas, including foreign policy and operations.

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Owen Thornber', written over a horizontal line.

Owen Thornber
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade