

16 December 2022

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RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 21 November 2022, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

I would like to request please under the Official Information Act how much MPP spent on Mr Leauanae's farewell.

I also understand recently MPP held an all staff planning day, I would like to request the cost of holding this day also, inclusive of transport and accommodation costs, and the agenda for the planning day.

The Ministry hosted an event for Pacific communities to farewell Lau Lu Mac Leauanae as the Secretary for Pacific Peoples. Lau Lu's farewell was a community-focused event held on the local marae, which included representatives from the nine Pacific community groups that he had worked closely with over his tenure. From a Pacific relationship perspective, it was important that the Ministry provided an opportunity for Pacific community representatives to attend the farewell, and for the Secretary to in turn acknowledge the work and support of Pacific communities. In addition, the farewell provided an important learning opportunity for Ministry staff, including the non-Pacific staff, to experience Pacific cultures and customs in practice. The Ministry is still receiving invoices relating to the farewell, so do not yet have a final cost. However, based on costs paid to date and our estimate of outstanding invoices, we calculate the cost of the farewell to be around \$46,000. This includes venue, catering and support for a small number of Pacific community representatives to attend.

The Ministry held a two day all staff fono (meeting) for planning and strategy discussions. This fono was the first time that Ministry staff were able to come together in person as a Ministry since July 2019 (before COVID-19). The fono focused on what the Ministry has delivered over the past 12 months, took stock of what we have learned, and sharpened the Ministry's focus on its deliverables for the next 3-6 months and beyond. A copy of the agenda is attached per your request (refer **Appendix 1**).

We are still receiving invoices relating to the farewell, so do not yet have a final cost. However, based on costs paid to date and our estimate of outstanding invoices, we calculate the cost of the two-day fono to be around \$86,000. This estimate is inclusive of transport and accommodation costs as requested.

****UPDATE: At the time of the OIA being released, we noted the approximate cost of the farewell was \$46,000 and the fono was \$86,000. This was based on costs paid to date and our estimate of outstanding invoices. Since then, the costs have been finalised and the total expenditure for the farewell was \$39,262.22 and expenditure for the fono was \$72,157.01***

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your company.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: uia_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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Office of the Secretary



DAY ONE

TIME	ITEM	LEAD
9:00am – 10:00am	Coffee on arrival	
10:00am – 10:15am	Welcome & Objectives	s9(2)(a)
	Opening lotu	s9(2)(a)
<i>Connecting & Reconnecting</i>		
10:15am – 11:55am	Farewell Briefing	s9(2)(a)
	Ministry pese practice	s9(2)(a)
Message from s9(2)(a)		
12:00 – 12:30pm	s9(2)(a)	s9(2)(a)
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lunch & Check In	
<i>2:00pm Shuttles to Farewell (Pipitea Marae Function Centre)</i>		
3:00 – 11:30pm	Public Farewell at Pipitea Marae Function Centre (3pm-5.30pm) Dinner (5.30pm – 6.30pm) MPP Farewell (6.30pm – 8.30pm)	

DAY TWO

TIME	ITEM	LEAD
0900	Opening lotu	s9(2)(a)
<i>Tautua Panel Session – the next 3,6 & 12 months</i>		
0915	Our new season	Tautua
1000	Morning tea	
<i>Priorities for our Pacific communities in 2022</i>		
1015	Preliminary Themes from Lalanga Fou Engagements 2022	s9(2)(a)
<i>Where are we going? How will we get there?</i>		
1115	Update on our 'Big Rocks' deliverables for 2022/2023 and beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Services • Office of the Secretary • Regional Partnerships • PERHL • Service Delivery 	Tier 3 Leaders
1230	Closing Lotu & Lunch	s9(2)(a)