



Te Pūkenga

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10 May 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Copied to: s 9(2)(a)

Investigator, Office of the Ombudsman

By email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Request under the Official Information Act 1982 – new decision on previous OIA requests

We refer to your two previous Official Information Act (OIA) requests (references TP230125 and TP240017) and resulting complaints to the Office of the Ombudsman regarding Te Pūkenga decision on parts of each request.

We have taken the opportunity provided by the Ombudsman to reconsider our position and the need to withhold the information related to the redundancy compensation paid to both Mr Payne and Mr Winder. In doing so, we have considered the points you raised in your communication with the Ombudsman and the current high level of public interest in redundancies across the whole public service. We have also engaged with the parties involved about the information pertaining to them within scope of your requests and its release.

Having undertaken this further detailed consideration and consultation we have decided to release information to you that was previously withheld and provide you with a new decision in response to the two parts of your original requests as detailed below.

TP230125 – Vaughan Payne

Regarding your request for:

Was there a payment (for example redundancy, early termination fee or similar) associated with the termination of Payne's contract?

If there was, I request to know the size of the associated payment. If privacy is a concern, I would accept an indication of the figure relative to Payne's salary. (For example, the payment was approximately equal to 6-months of salary).

I also request to know the last month in which Te Pūkenga made a payment to Payne, related to his employment at Te Pūkenga.

New Decision

Following the disestablishment of the position held by Mr Payne, he received redundancy compensation equivalent to three months' base salary, in accordance with the terms of his employment agreement. This payment amounted to \$98,250 and was paid on 6 December 2022, which was when Mr Payne received his final payment from Te Pūkenga. We note your concern as to whether there was an overlap of payments when Mr Payne was subsequently hired by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). We can advise that Mr Payne was not still being paid by Te Pūkenga beyond 6 December 2022, ie. when he commenced work for DIA.

TP240017 – Peter Winder

Regarding your request for:

Please disclose the value of redundancy pay or similar paid/owed to Mr Winder.

New Decision

Mr Winder received redundancy compensation equivalent to three months' base salary, in accordance with the terms of his employment agreement. This payment amounted to \$163,383.

Conclusion

We consider that the public interest is satisfied with the provision of the information above, which was previously withheld from our responses to your two OIA requests.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact s 9(2)(a) Government Relations Director, in the first instance at OIA@tepukenga.ac.nz.

You have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA if you are not happy with this response. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



Gus Gilmore
Tumuaki Taupua | Chief Executive