

Ms Reynolds
By email

23 July 2020

LGOIMA Request received 27 May 2020

Kia ora Ms Reynolds

Thank you for your follow up email dated 2 July 2020, in which you ask a series of questions relating to ZEALANDIA's response to your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 ("Act") dated 27 May 2020 ("original request"). We address these matters below.

Aggregation of information

I understand that Wellington Zoo (in responding to your original request) have provided more detailed information than that provided by ZEALANDIA. While I am unable to comment on Wellington Zoo's decision-making in relation to your original request, I note (as you have acknowledged in your email of 2 July 2020) that your request to ZEALANDIA differed significantly in that you asked ZEALANDIA to provide information relating to the area of business and position of the relevant staff members.

As explained in our response of 22 June 2020, given the scope of the information requested (ie including area of business and position), we determined it was necessary to release the information in an aggregated form to protect the privacy of our staff members. For completeness, we note that ZEALANDIA is entitled to provide a summary of the information requested where interests protected by section 7 of the Act may be prejudiced by release, and ZEALANDIA is not required to consult with requesters except in certain prescribed circumstances.

That said, we thank you for your clarification that you no longer require the information relating to the area of business or position of the relevant staff members. On that basis, acknowledging that there is a lower risk of identification of our staff members if no reference is made to the area of business in which they work or the position they hold, we are happy to release the following tables of information that we hope you find useful. These tables reflect the approach taken by Wellington Zoo, as (based on your latest correspondence) we understand you were comfortable with that approach. Similar to Wellington Zoo (and reflecting Ombudsman guidance) we have used bands for some limited information, to help protect the privacy of our staff in accordance with section 7(2)(a) of the Act. We do not consider that the public interest weighs in favour of releasing specific details in respect of each staff member (including for example their specific salary) in this instance.

Employment as at 16 March 2020

In relation to your comments regarding employment dates, we note that the original request asked for information relating to staff employed as at 16 March 2020. A number of ZEALANDIA's staff are casual workers, who are only "employed" for the period in which they are engaged to work (as a matter of law). There is otherwise no ongoing employment relationship. Accordingly, we have used information from the fortnight payroll ending the 21 March 2020 as the 16 March 2020 falls within this pay period (such that the casual staff can be said to have been employed at that time).

Casual staff who did not work in the fortnight payroll ending the 21 March 2020 have been excluded from our response, as they were not employed by ZEALANDIA as at 16 March 2020. However, to the extent you are seeking information relating to casual staff who did not work in this fortnight (but have otherwise recently worked on a casual basis with ZEALANDIA), we invite you to clarify the scope of your request. For example, we would be happy to provide you with information relating to those casual staff members who worked at ZEALANDIA in the three months prior to 16 March 2020 (but who have otherwise been excluded from our response to date as they were not employed as at 16 March 2020). Please let us know how we can assist.

Date of application

Finally, we apologise for erroneously leaving out the date on which the subsidy was applied for. This has now been provided in the attached table, in respect of each employee.

In summary, Karori Sanctuary Trust has received \$365,361.60 from the wage subsidy for 56 staff across 3 individual claims made on the 23 March 2020, 7 April 2020 and 15 May 2020.

Right of review

If you disagree with my decision you have the right, under section 27(3) of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review and investigate my decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please contact me if you need any further information.

Yours,



Paul Atkins
ZEALANDIA Chief Executive