



15 March 2021

Torven Schalk

By email: fyi-request-14689-c242e066@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Torven

Official information request regarding the use of the student services levy

I refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 15 February 2021:

1. *I would like to know the total amount of levys you collected from students in the last year*
2. *for which exact services did you contract VUWSA from these levys*
3. *how much did you pay to VUWSA, please include the contracts with VUWSA*
4. *what measures are in place to ascertain what VUWSA uses these funds for*
5. *do you provide any additional funds or non-monetary benefits to VUWSA or VUWSA events such as o-week (e.g. spaces/locations), and for how much do you provide these*

I have numbered your requests for ease of response.

1. *I would like to know the total amount of levys you collected from students in the last year*

In 2020 the Student Service Levy revenue was \$13,918,981 (GST exclusive).

2. *for which exact services did you contract VUWSA from these levys*

The University has a contract for services with VUWSA to support:

- Class representative services;
- Faculty Delegate Services;
- Advocacy Services;
- Clubs;
- Engagement and life on campus
- Welfare and volunteers including volunteer support for Victoria University of Wellington provision of flu shots, providing a community pantry food parcel service, stress free study week;
- Supporting the Post Graduate Student Association

- Promoting safe spaces and future proofing through initiatives such as sex week and sustainability week
- Orientation and events; and
- Student media – Salient magazine and podcasts.

3. *how much did you pay to VUWSA, please include the contracts with VUWSA*

The 2020 contract for services with VUWSA was \$945,000 plus an additional \$11,519 for student Assembly consultation.

4. *what measures are in place to ascertain what VUWSA uses these funds for*

A range of measures are used to verify appropriate use of funds including quarterly reporting against key performance indicators, financial reports using reporting categories provided in Ministerial Directives, and annual audited reports. Dispersion of funds is dependent on meeting prior reporting requirements.

5. *do you provide any additional funds or non-monetary benefits to VUWSA or VUWSA events such as o-week (e.g. spaces/locations), and for how much do you provide these*

Additional support is provided to VUWSA in the form of assistance with events such as cleaning services, use of space for events, additional external security for events (approximately \$6,400), internal security resources to assist with planning and preparation of events (approximate value \$12,000), provision of food during Orientation Week events to reduce risk of intoxication (\$907.45); and contributions from the University's Hardship Fund for food costs during Stress Free Study Week (was not used in 2020). The University also has an agreement with VUWSA to share carparking revenue (\$57,770.48 in 2020).

Further information about the Student Services Levy is available in the Student Services levy Year End Annual Report. The 2019 report is available at:

https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/231454/levy-report.pdf

The 2020 report is currently being completed and will be available shortly.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz.

Ngā mihi nui

Blair Doherty

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

Legal Services

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington