



10 November 2021

R S Bicknell

By email: fyi-request-17103-aef86608@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe R S Bicknell

Official information request for expenditure information from the Southeast Asia Centre for Asia Pacific Excellence (SEA Cape)

I refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 9 October 2021:

“The total amount of money spent on hospitality (lunches, dinners, event catering etc) by the SEA Cape in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

The total amount spent on alcohol by the SEA Cape in 2018, 2019, 2020.

The total amount spent on international airfares by the SEA Cape in 2018 and 2019. Please breakdown this cost by class of travel.

The total amount spent by the SEA Cape on memberships of any private club memberships for staff associated with the SEA Cape (including the Wellington Club or Northern Club).

The total amount of funds spent on salaries by the SEA Cape in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Please breakdown by role.

The total amount of funding spent on hotels by the SEA Cape in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Please breakdown by hotel.”

The Southeast Asia Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence (SEA CAPE) is hosted by Victoria University of Wellington as part of a consortium of New Zealand universities. As per my previous correspondence, the aspects of your request that relate to expenditure by other universities have been transferred to those universities who will respond to you directly.

The table below contains the information you have requested in relation to expenditure by Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington (The University).

Accommodation	Amora Hotel	2,882
	Bolton Hotel	1,601
	Copthorne Hotel	190
	Cordis Hotel	391
	Crown Hotel	516
	Distinction Hotel	470
	Harvest Lodge	896
	Ibis Hotel	170
	Inya Lake Hotel	335
	James Cook Grand Chancellor	240
	Jet Park Hotel	488
	Portside Hotel	629
	Quadrant Hotel	378
	Scenic Hotel	1,018
	Skycity Hotel	236
	Thorndon Hotel	187
Unspecified	103,043	
Hospitality and Event Catering		127,950
Salaries		1,425,619
International airfares		381,018
Grand Total		2,048,255

Please note the following points regarding this information:

- Information regarding alcohol purchases is not recorded separately in our financial reporting systems. Costs associated with expenditure on alcohol are included in the hospitality field. Your request for the provision of this information separately is refused in accordance with Section 18(f) of the Act as to provide the information would require a substantial amount of research and collation that would affect the effective administration of the University.
- International airfares purchased are economy class, in accordance with the Universities [Travel and Expenses Policy](#). However, in some instances, individuals may choose to upgrade their class of travel at their own personal expense. The figure provided for international airfares represents the cost to the University for economy class flights and does not include any additional upgrades purchased separately by the person travelling.
- No private club memberships were purchased for SEA Cape members. Therefore, this aspect of your request is refused in accordance with Section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.
- We have provided the total amount spent on salaries. Detailed information regarding salaries is withheld in accordance with Section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions made regarding this request. 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