

27 September 2023

s9(2)(a)



Thank you for your request to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, dated 11 August 2023. You requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“A list of all events Kāinga Ora has held or had some responsibility for hosting that cost in excess of \$10,000 over the past year? Can the total cost for each of these events please be provided, along with a breakdown of what contributed to the costs? It would be helpful to also know the business purpose or justification for each event as well.”

On 14 August 2023 we emailed you to seek clarification on what you meant by the term “events”, whether your interest was in events where we hosted external groups or in those that predominantly involved our staff (e.g. staff farewells), and whether there was a threshold or number of invitees that was of particular interest. We did not receive a response to our request for clarification.

On 5 September 2023 we extended the deadline for a decision on your request to 27 September 2023 as the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original time limit.

We have defined events as activities that Kāinga Ora has held, or had some responsibility for hosting, that are one-off or irregular. We have provided information on all such activities held in the 12 months to 11 August 2023 (the date of your request), where the direct onsite spend, including aspects such as venue hire, catering and speaker’s fees, exceeded \$10,000 (including GST).

We have excluded BAU activities such as training, team planning / strategy or community engagement work. However, many of these activities are reported in our responses to Annual Review Written Questions and our most recent response is available at https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCSS_EVI_128641_SS5234/7035c8755fe3086b9d90c3d2ee09af206ca5975c (q 101, p85 – 88).

All expenditure on events must be consistent with the Kāinga Ora Sensitive Expenditure Policy and must:

- Have a justifiable business purpose
- Preserve impartiality (i.e. the spending cannot be influenced by bias, preference or improper reasons)

- Be made with integrity
- Be moderate and conservative
- Be made transparently, and
- Be made with proper authority.

The Sensitive Expenditure Policy contains a number of specific requirements that are relevant to events. The Policy states that catering should only be provided for events anticipated to last four hours or more, and that no alcohol will be provided. External venues should only be used where there are no suitable Kāinga Ora premises available and there are no other appropriate options.

The Policy requires that every effort must be made to ensure venue costs are moderate, conservative and appropriate to the meeting or occasion. The Policy also includes specific guidance around staff functions including farewells, retirements and start / end of year functions, where a contribution can be made for food and non-alcoholic drinks.

In the 12 months to 11 August 2023 we held one event that falls within the scope of your request. An event was held on 3 August 2023 to mark the completion of Te Mātāwai (139 Greys Avenue, Auckland). It was attended by the Minister of Housing, the Prime Minister, representatives from Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, media and other guests. The development is one of the most significant delivered by Kāinga Ora as Te Mātāwai represents a new direction for supported inner-city living.

The 276-unit complex is a flagship build for the agency. Besides being the largest development completed in Tāmaki Makarau by Kāinga Ora, the site includes 24/7 on-site support delivering social and health services, and provides much needed central city housing for a diverse mix of people including some homes to support people from the rough sleeping community.

The three residential buildings were gifted names by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. The opening was the culmination of five years' work by Kāinga Ora and its partners. One hundred guests were invited to the Te Mātāwai opening and a breakdown of costs for the event is provided in Table One, below.

Table One: Breakdown of costs for Te Mātāwai opening

Name of event	Date	Breakdown of costs	
Te Mātāwai opening	3/8/2023	Food and drink	\$3,667.61
		AV equipment	\$2,696.75
		Traffic management	\$2,585.75
		Event security	\$1,380.00
		Hire equipment	\$224.25
		Matting for health and safety	\$126.14
		Misc. staff costs	\$808.00
		Total	\$11,488.50

I trust you find this information useful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision on your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Kāinga Ora proactively releases its responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published at <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/publications/official-information-requests/>, with your personal information removed.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Stiven', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gareth Stiven
General Manager – Strategy Finance and Policy