



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

8 September 2023

9(2)(a) privacy

9(2)(a) privacy

Official Information Request Our Ref: 2023-0168

I refer to your official information request received on 11 August 2023 where you have asked for information relating to the Sensitive Expenditure Review, recently undertaken. For ease of reference we have listed each of your questions and included our responses directly under.

"In the light of the Commissioner's statement earlier this week Findings on sensitive expenditure review released - Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission and the underlying report, please provide me with the following information:

- 1. the reasons why the inquiry, originally described as expected to be completed by "mid to late February" took until July/August*
- 2. - the basis for the Commissioner's comment that he thanked Mr Leauanae for 'putting the matter right at the first opportunity.' (I note that Mr Hughes's statement appears to refer to different timeframes for the return of the gifts and the reimbursement of travel costs)*
- 3. elaboration of this point "On being made aware of the money spent on gifts he immediately repaid the \$7,500 and returned all the gifts.". Is it correct that Mr Leauanae both returned all the gifts and reimbursed MPP for the full cost of those gifts? If so, as far as you are aware, why?*
- 4. the dates on which (a) the gifts were returned in full, b) the travel costs were reimbursed, and c) PSC was advised of each of a) and b)*
- 5. copies of any contacts with Mr Leauanae either seeking these reimbursements or acknowledging that they had been made."*

On 14 August 2023 you asked for the following to be included in your request:

- 6. Since I have now learned from material on MPP's website (in connection with the PSC investigation) that there was a Public Service Commission representative speaking at the farewell, please also advise me of the name and rank of this person.*

Our Response

1. *The reasons why the inquiry, originally described as expected to be completed by "mid to late February" took until July/August*

On 19 June 2023, the Public Service Commissioner made a decision to expand the scope of the review to include expenditure decisions of both MPP and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH) relating to a welcome event for the incoming Secretary for Culture and Heritage held on 17 October 2022.

2. *the basis for the Commissioner's comment that he thanked Mr Leauanae for 'putting the matter right at the first opportunity.' (I note that Mr Hughes's statement appears to refer to different timeframes for the return of the gifts and the reimbursement of travel costs)*

The basis for the Commissioner's comments are outlined in the Review report that is publicly available on Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission website [here](#).

3. *elaboration of this point "On being made aware of the money spent on gifts he immediately repaid the \$7,500 and returned all the gifts." Is it correct that Mr Leauanae both returned all the gifts and reimbursed MPP for the full cost of those gifts? If so, as far as you are aware, why?*
4. *the dates on which (a) the gifts were returned in full, b) the travel costs were reimbursed, and c) PSC was advised of each of a) and b)*

As outlined in review report, upon being made aware of the expenditure, the outgoing Secretary returned all gifts and reimbursed the Ministry of Pacific Peoples (MPP) the \$7,555.49 spent on gifts. Outlined in the table below are the dates the reimbursements were made and gifts returned to MPP and the dates the Commission was advised.

Item	Description	Date Returned	Date Advised
1.	\$7,555.49 spent on gifts reimbursement	3 March 2023	3 March 2023
2.	Gifts returned to the Ministry of Pacific Peoples	7 March 2023	7 March 2023
3.	\$4,115.38 cost of flights reimbursement	24 July 2023	31 July 2023

5. *Copies of any contacts with Mr Leauanae either seeking these reimbursements or acknowledging that they had been made."*

Please find enclosed and outlined in the table below communications the Commission had with Mr Leauanae relating to the reimbursements that were made and gifts that were returned to MPP. I have decided to release the documents listed below, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) in order to protect the privacy of a natural persons, including deceased people.

In addition, some information has been deleted where it is not within the scope of your request.

Item	Document Description	Decision
4.	Text messages dated 3 March 2023 and 6 March 2023 between Mac Leauanae and Heather Baggott, Deputy Public Service Commissioner	Released in part
5.	Email dated 7 March 2023 from Mac Leauanae to Heather Baggott, Deputy Public Service Commissioner	Released in part

6.	Email dated 31 July 2023 from Mac Leauanae and Jane Lee, Assistant Commissioner	Released in part
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6. *Since I have now learned from material on MPP's website (in connection with the PSC investigation) that there was a Public Service Commission representative speaking at the farewell, please also advise me of the name and rank of this person.*

As the host of the event, MPP were responsible for setting the programme (including speakers) for the farewell event. Two senior advisors from the Commission spoke on behalf of the Pacific Public Servants Employee Led Network of which Mac Leauanae was a sponsor.

We are withholding the names of staff members who attended the function under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of individuals. In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz.

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.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks
Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

2:11



Mac >



Fri, 3 Mar at 8:34 AM

out of scope

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I had a really good chat. Actions we would like to undertake:

- As discussed, I'll coordinate to return all gifts that were funded / subsidised by tax payers. I'll return to PSC (next week);
- As some of the gifts will not be able to have the cash return - to avoid any doubt, we will reimburse all the gift money subsidised by tax payers - \$7,555.49. Please confirm a/c number. I'd like to transfer that money today.

out of scope



iMessage



2:12



Mac >



out of scope

Thank you Mac. I think that is very considered of you

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I'll let Peter know. I think the \$\$ and gifts need to go back to MPP - among other things - appropriation.

out of scope



iMessage



2:13



Mac >



Fri, 3 Mar at 6:00 PM

Pay someone You're on page 3 of 3

✓ Success! Your payment has been processed [Print this page](#)

Receipt

From account: 9(2)(a) privacy

To account:

Start date: 3 March 2023

Processing time: We send payments to other banks every hour between 9am and midnight on business days. Payments submitted after midnight, or on a weekend or public holiday, will be sent the next business day. Processing times for other banks may vary.

Frequency: One-off payment

Amount: \$7,555.49

Statement details	Particulars	Code	Reference
On your statement	MPP Farewell	Gifts	Repayment
On their statement	MPP Farewell	Laulu Mac	Gifts repay

[Make another transaction](#)



FYI - spoke to G. Will speak to her next Monday at 4pm in terms of returning the gifts. Money transfer complete.

out of scope

2:13



Mac >

9(2)(a) privacy

FYI - spoke to G. Will speak to her next Monday at 4pm in terms of returning the gifts. Money transfer complete. out of scope
out of scope

Mon, 6 Mar at 7:22 PM

Malo Heather, fyi - I'll be transferring all the gifts tomorrow morning. out of scope
out of scope

Nga mihi, Mac

Thank you for the update Mac.



iMessage



From: [Mac Leauanae](#)
To: [Heather Baggott](#)
Subject: out of scope
Date: Tuesday, 7 March 2023 6:58:16 pm
out of scope

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Talofa lava Heather,

out of scope

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Also, I furnished the gifts back to MPP this morning at 10am. out of scope


Fa'afetai lava,

Mac

Leauanae Laulu Mac Leauanae | Tumu Whakarae | Secretary & Chief Executive
Manatū Taonga - Ministry for Culture and Heritage
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Ki te puāwai te ahure a, Ka ora te iwi
Culture is thriving, The people are well

out of scope



From: Mac Leauanae 9(2)(a) privacy

Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 7:02 AM



To: Jane Lee 9(2)(a) privacy

Subject: out of scope

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.


Talofa lava Jane,

out of scope



I confirm that I reimbursed the amount of \$4,115.38 to MPP as soon as I was made aware of the total travel costs for my external guests.

out of scope



Fa'afetai lava,

Mac