



Te Kawa Mataaho
Public Service Commission

17 August 2021

9(2)(a) privacy

Dear 9(2)(a) privacy

Official Information Request
Our Ref: 2021/0099

We refer to your official information request received on 21 July 2021 for copies of:

- “28 June 2021 Aide Memoire MOGSSER, Oral Item, 30 June 2021: Fair Pay Agreements and the impact on the public sector
- 29 June 2021 Report MPI Migrant Fisheries”

Information being released

We have decided to release the relevant parts of the document listed below, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1	29 June 2021	Report: Ministerial Inquiry into the Use and Allocation of Migrant Labour in the Seafood Sector	Released in Part

Information being withheld

We have also decided to withhold the following document in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
2	28 June 2021	Aide Memoire MOGSSER, Oral Item, 30 June 2021: Fair Pay Agreements and the impact on the public sector	Withheld in Full

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) on Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Dirks', with a stylized, cursive script.

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



Ministerial Inquiry into the Use and Allocation of Migrant Labour in the Seafood Sector - Fees

Date: 29 June 2021

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

Report No: 2021/0172

Contact: Ibolya Rumi, Senior Advisor, System and Agency Performance Group

Telephone: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

	Actions Sought	Due Date
Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for the Public Service	Sign the attached letter to Hon David Parker, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries	2 July 2021

Enclosure: Yes

Minister's Office Comments

Comments:	
Date returned to Te Kawa Mataaho:	

Executive Summary

- 1 Hon David Parker, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries (the Minister), is seeking your agreement to the fees to be paid to members of the Ministerial Inquiry into the Use and Allocation of Migrant Labour in the Seafood Sector (the Inquiry).
- 2 The Minister proposes to pay daily fees of \$1,400 + GST for the Chair and \$1,350 + GST for members.
- 3 We recommend you agree to the Minister's proposal.

Recommended Action

We recommend that you:

- a **agree** to the proposal to pay a fee of \$1,400 + GST per day to the Chair of the Inquiry
Agree/disagree.
- b **agree** to the proposal to pay a fee of \$1,350 + GST per day to the members of the Inquiry
Agree/disagree.
- c **agree** that this briefing will not be published for reasons of privacy.
Agree/disagree.
- d **sign** the attached letter to the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries.
Agree/disagree.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for the Public Service

Ministerial Inquiry into the Use and Allocation of Migrant Labour in the Seafood Sector - Fees

Background

- 4 Hon David Parker, Minister of Oceans and Fisheries (the Minister) is establishing a Ministerial Inquiry into the Use and Allocation of Migrant Labour in the Seafood Sector (the Inquiry). The Inquiry will investigate the current use and allocation of migrant labour in the seafood sector, with a view to reducing reliance on migrant labour while encouraging a transition towards more New Zealanders in the seafood workforce.
- 5 Under the Cabinet Fees Framework (the Framework), Ministerial Inquiries are classified as Group 1 bodies. There are no fee ranges for Group 1 bodies, and all fees must be referred to the Minister for the Public Service for consideration as exceptions.

Minister's proposal and Te Kawa Mataaho reasons for supporting the proposal

- 6 The Minister proposes to pay daily fees of \$1,400 + GST for the Chair and \$1,350 + GST for members. The Inquiry panel will comprise three members, including and acting Chair.
- 7 Officials advise that Inquiry members need to have the following skills:
- significant economics expertise
 - extensive experience in the seafood sector
 - demonstrated ability to work intensively, and to complete the inquiry in a short timeframe (between early July 2021 and 29 October 2021).
- 8 The proposed fees are not inconsistent with fees paid for the Chairs and members of Inquiries since 2018, as shown in the following table:

Year	Inquiry	Chair's fee	Non-Chair fees
2019	Historical Abuse in State Care and Care in Faith-based Institutions	\$1,400	\$1,350
2019	Attack on the Christchurch Mosques – proposed	\$2,254 - Daily equivalent of Supreme Court Judge salary	\$1,350
2018	EQC	\$1,400	n/a
2018	Electricity Advisory Group	\$1,500	\$1,150
2018	Historical Abuse in State Care	\$1,400	\$1,350

- 9 Fees for a Group 1 body can be agreed between the responsible Minister and yourself, where the rationale for the proposed fees is strong and the daily fees payable do not exceed the daily fee payable to a High Court Judge (\$2,048).
- 10 Taking account of the high calibre and skills required, the need to commence quickly, the short term of the Inquiry and the consistency with other Inquiries, we recommend you agree to the Minister's proposal, without referral to Cabinet's Appointments and Honours Committee.

Office of Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Hon David Parker
Minister of Oceans and Fisheries
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister

Ministerial Inquiry into the Use and Allocation of Migrant Labour in the Seafood Sector - Fees

Thank you for your letter of 18 June 2021 seeking my agreement to fees for the Chair and members of the Ministerial Inquiry into the Use and Allocation of Migrant Labour in the Seafood Sector (the Inquiry).

You are proposing to pay fees of \$1,400 + GST per day for the Chair and \$1,350 + GST per day for the panel members.

I note that the Inquiry will be starting imminently and is expected to be completed in a short timeframe.

I acknowledge that the fees reflect the range and calibre of skills required and the requirement to start quickly and only last for a short period. I note that the proposed fees are not inconsistent with fees paid for members of other recent inquiries and lower than the daily equivalent paid to a sitting High Court Judge.

Accordingly, I agree to the proposed daily fees.

Your sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister for the Public Service

Dated: