



12 December 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act Request**

**Our Reference: SSC2018/0188**

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request, which was received by the State Services Commission (SSC) on 23 November 2018, for:

*I request the following information for the 2017/18 financial year:*

- 1. The total amount spent by Council on koha.*
- 2. The names of all parties which received koha from Council.*
- 3. The total amount spent by Council on any other donations.*
- 4. The names of all parties which received a donation from Council.*

In response to questions one and two, the giving of koha by Crown agencies is one expression of Crown recognition of tikanga Māori and is not a new phenomenon. For SSC koha is a gift, a thought, a token, or a contribution. Koha should be understood in terms of inherent value and accepted as an integral part of tikanga Māori. This acceptance has stemmed from the desire to develop a responsive and bicultural public service.

In the 2017/18 financial year, SSC paid \$100 in koha to a kaumātua for their involvement in a blessing ceremony, which was held at the SSC on 11 December 2017.

In response to questions three and four, in the 2017/18 financial year, SSC has not made any donation payments.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [Ministerial.Services@ssc.govt.nz](mailto:Ministerial.Services@ssc.govt.nz).

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the State Services Commission's website

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Bruce', with a long, sweeping underline.

Rachel Bruce  
**Deputy Commissioner**  
**State Services Commission**