

27 February 2024

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request to the Department of Conservation, received 29 January 2024, in which you asked for:

“Can you tell me what has been spent nationally on this, including how much has gone to panel members, staff time, legal advice etc? Can I see a breakdown?

Also, how much on the West Coast panel and hearings has been spent so far?”

The reclassification project has been operating since April 2021. The costs released reflect spending from then to the current time. National Panel costs include the daily fee for Panel members and Chairs as per the [Cabinet Fees Framework](#) (\$650/day for Chair; \$450/day for panel member) as well as travel costs for site visits/meetings which include flights, accommodation, food etc. As per the Minister’s 2021 Agreement with the Kaiwhakahaere of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT), payment to TRONT includes remuneration for the Mana Whenua Panel as well as the Secretariat, GIS, Legal and rūnanga support needed to deliver this work.

We have broken the costs down into broad categories and provided information for each financial year for which the reclassification project has been operating. These figures are displayed in the table below.

	<b>21/22</b>	<b>22/23</b>	<b>23/24</b>
<b>DOC staff salaries/wages</b>	\$223,560	\$337,328	\$242,806
<b>Mana Whenua Panel costs including secretariat support</b>	\$242,983	\$213,080	\$0
<b>WSI National Panel fees, includes travel</b>	\$199,608	\$16,348	\$0
<b>NSI National Panel fees, includes travel</b>	\$5,803	\$35,456	\$5,124
<b>West Coast public process (includes notification, hearings, analysis)</b>	\$0	\$348,584	\$0
<b>Landscape reports</b>	\$83,333	\$24,550	\$0
<b>Helicopter site visits for panels</b>	\$12,995	\$17,700	\$0
<b>Other (staff travel, printing, catering etc)</b>	\$24,737	\$50,932	\$10,927
<b>Total</b>	\$793,019	\$1,043,978	\$258,857

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website. You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.



Nāku noa, nā



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*Te Papa Atawhai*