

25 June 2021

Louise Houlbrooke

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Dear Louis

Thank you for your email of 13 May 2021 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) regarding the Tāne Mahuta sculpture installed during the Reserve Bank of New Zealand – Te Pūtea Matua's lobby refurbishment. You requested the following:

- *"How much did the Reserve Bank spend on this sculpture?"*
 - *Please include any costs associated with designing and installing the sculpture.*
- *From what materials is the sculpture made?"*

On 10 June 2021 we extended the timeframe for responding to your request by 10 working days to 25 June 2021 because consultation was necessary for us to make a decision on your request.

Response

The Reserve Bank identified the need to undertake refurbishment work in the lobby of the Reserve Bank building at 2 The Terrace, Wellington, including planned asbestos removal. The refurbishment provided us with the opportunity to improve the layout of the lobby, enhance our security presence, create a dedicated private space for people to return currency and – as a landlord – provide modern and professional reception services for our tenants.

As the lobby had not been refurbished in more than 13 years, we took the opportunity to redesign it to reflect our strategic direction and incorporate our Tāne Mahuta narrative as its framework. This enabled the Reserve Bank to further communicate its commitment to our Te Ao Māori strategy and visually reinforce this narrative to our staff and visitors to the building.

The refurbishment included the installation of four items utilising Māori motifs and elements of the waka voyage, Ranginui and Papatūanuku and Tāne Mahuta. They are:

- a sculpture of Tāne Mahuta
- three pou (pillars) representing Te Ngahere (the Forest of Tāne)
- mosaic floor tiles running the length of the lobby representing Ngā Pūtake (the roots of Tāne Mahuta), and
- a redesigned reception desk area representing a waka hourua (a double-hulled canoe).

The cost of these items, including their design and installation, was \$373,739, net of recovered GST. There may be some residual costs yet to come associated with this work.

The Tāne Mahuta sculpture was crafted from the following materials:

- swamp kauri
- composite material
- aluminium
- resin
- LED lighting.

The OIA allows charges to be imposed for the preparation of information in response to requests. The Reserve Bank is resourced to meet disclosure obligations for a reasonable level of requests and the cost of providing free responses to official information requests is generally borne by taxpayers. However, the Reserve Bank believes that requesters should bear some of the costs, where allowable under the OIA, when requests are made for large amounts of information, where a response is particularly complex, or where individuals or organisations make frequent requests. In this instance, as we acknowledge the significant public interest in the information being released, we have decided not to impose a charge.

Please note that we intend to publish a copy of this response on the Reserve Bank's website: www.rbnz.govt.nz/research-and-publications/official-information-requests. Responses to requests are published in order to improve public transparency and provide an additional resource for anyone seeking information.

Yours Sincerely



Tobias Vandenberg
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Reserve Bank of New Zealand | Te Pūtea Matua