



Our Ref: OIA 23 - 83

26 April 2023



Tēnā koe,

**Re: Toitū OIA Request**

I refer to your emails dated 28 March 2023, and 3 April 2023 to the Education Review Office requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 as follows:

1. *How many years has your office been affiliated with Toitū?*
2. *How much does it cost your office to maintain certification, including fees from Toitū and costs related to meeting these requirements?*
3. *If different, what were the initial up-front costs to achieve compliance with certification standards and achieve certification in the first place?*
4. *Does the office plan to achieve CarbonZero/Carbon Positive certification, and if so, why, and under what timeframe?*
5. *If not, why?*
6. *Has the office considered other certification/auditors, or in-house auditing of their climate emissions as an alternative to Toitū?*
7. *Please provide copy of any contracts signed, any other applicable conditions or criteria your agency must abide by as part of accreditation.*

ERO's responses are as follows:

1. ERO have been affiliated with Toitu for approximately 2 and half years.
2. I am withholding this information under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA as releasing the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of third parties. I have considered the public interest grounds requiring the release, and concluded that its release does not outweigh the need to withhold.
3. Not applicable – there was no initial set up cost.
4. We have not identified a target to achieve CarbonZero/Carbon Positive certification.
5. ERO is committed to meeting the requirements of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme and operating in an emissions and energy-efficient environment. Refer to ERO's 2021/22 Annual Report for more information.
6. No. ERO receives benefits as part of its membership ERO is a small government department and does not have the in-house capability to complete an in-house auditing process
7. I am withholding the contract between ERO and Enviro – Mark Solutions Limited under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA as releasing the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of third parties. I have considered the public interest

grounds requiring the release, and concluded that its release does not outweigh the need to withhold.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. France', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jeremy France  
Deputy Chief Executive Corporate Services  
Education Review Office | Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga  
National Office | Tari Matua