

6 April 2023



Wellington 6011

Dear 

Official Information request and response

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act (“OIA”) dated **28th March 2023**.

We have listed your questions with answers below. We also note your additional question received on **4th April 2023**.

How many years has your commission been affiliated with Toitū?

Te Ara Ahunga Ora Retirement Commission has been Toitū Carbonreduce certified since the year ended 30 June 2021 and currently maintains the same certification.

How much does it cost your commission to maintain certification, including fees from Toitū and costs related to meeting these requirements?

Annual membership fee of \$5000 + GST plus annual audit fees of around \$2,000 - \$3,000 plus GST

If different, what were the initial up-front costs to achieve compliance with certification standards and achieve certification in the first place?

N/A

Does the commission plan to achieve CarbonZero/Carbon Positive certification, and if so, why, and under what timeframe?

We do not plan to achieve CarbonZero/Carbon Positive. We are seeking to reduce our emissions rather than offset.

If not, why?

See above.

Has the commission considered other certification/auditors, or in-house auditing of their climate emissions as an alternative to Toitū?

No. Our internal staff prepare the documentation needed for Toitū within their existing roles, and we do not have the expertise in this area for full in-house carbon auditing.



Please provide copy of any contracts signed, any other applicable conditions or criteria your agency must abide by as part of accreditation.

Attached via email.

You have the right to refer this response to the Ombudsman if you are dissatisfied with it. More information on how to do this is [here](#). Te Ara Ahunga Ora proactively releases information in accordance with the Government's commitment to the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan. This includes publishing responses to requests for information under the OIA. Please note that this response will be published on the Te Ara Ahunga Ora website shortly and will remain on our website for 12 months.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Wrightson

RETIREMENT COMMISSIONER / MANA AHUNGARUA

