

3 May 2023

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

I refer to your request received on 28 March 2023, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for information relating to carbon certification. Please find a response to each of your questions below.

1. *How many years has your Ministry been affiliated with Toitū?*

Two years.

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

In the last financial year 2021/22 fees paid to Toitū to maintain certification were \$10,524 excluding GST. There were no other costs.

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

Up front costs included a review of our baseline year emissions, at an additional cost of \$3,024.

3. *Does the Ministry plan to achieve CarbonZero/Carbon Positive certification, and if so, why, and under what timeframe?*

- a. *If not, why?*

No, we have not yet formally considered this matter.

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

No. At the time of contracting with Toitū they were the only provider on the all of government panel for emissions certification. We will consider other providers when the current agreement is due for renegotiation.

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

We are releasing an excerpt from Manatū Taonga's contract with Toitū, as this section specifically refers to accreditation. If you would like to see the contract in full, please let us know.

Buyer's Reporting Requirements

Reference Attachment 1 to Schedule 1. You agree that You are aiming to achieve the Certification based on the Verification parameters and assumptions set by You and agreed by Us, which are:

Objective	Toitū carbonreduce Certification in accordance with ISO 14064-1 (organisation inventory).
Scope	All relevant sources as required by the Programme (i.e. All Category 1 and 2 emissions; Category 3 emissions associated with business travel and freight paid for by the organisation; Category 4 emissions associated with waste disposed of by the organisation, and the transmissions and distribution of electricity and natural gas where appropriate; and any Sector specific mandatory emissions sources as outlined by the Programme, within the boundary indicated for the operations of the nominated legal entity within New Zealand.
Criteria	Technical Requirements (organisation) version 2.0, Certification Mark Guide version 2.0, ISO 14064-3 (verification).
Consolidation Approach	Operational control.
Materiality	Errors, omissions and exclusions when aggregated do not exceed 5% of the total inventory.
Level of Assurance	Assurance levels will determined and confirmed with you prior to audit.
Service Levels	Technical Account Management Support Hours: Up to 10 hours. Estimated Audit and Certification Hours: Up to 11 hours (subject to the Appendix of Terms).

The Toitū certification criteria for 'carbonreduce' is publicly available and can be found via the following link:

<https://www.toitu.co.nz/what-we-offer/carbon-management/summary-of-toitu-carbon-programmes-standard>

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

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Matthew Oliver

Pou Mataaho o Te Iho - Deputy Chief Executive, Organisational Performance