



14 April 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 28 March 2023. You requested the following:

1. *How many years has your department been affiliated with Toitū?*
2. *How much does it cost your department 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 department plan to achieve Carbon Zero/Carbon Positive certification, and if so, why, and under what timeframe?*
5. *If not, why?*
6. *Has the department considered other certification/auditors, or in-house auditing of their climate emissions as an alternative to Toitū?*

**Question 1: How many years has your department been affiliated with Toitū?**

Inland Revenue is not affiliated with, Toitū Envirocare, but has had two commercial arrangements.

In June 2021, we engaged Toitū Envirocare to facilitate a one-off workshop to define the scope and boundaries for Inland Revenue's carbon emissions inventory.

In December 2021, we engaged Toitū Envirocare to provide set-up services, advice, and to complete an audit of our emissions inventory from 2018-19 to 2021-22 to enable us to meet the requirements of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP). This arrangement ended on 31 January 2023 when the CNGP reporting requirements and follow-up queries for 2021-22 had been met.

**Questions 2 and 3: How much does it cost your department to maintain certification, including fees from Toitū and costs related to meeting these requirements? If different, what were the initial up-front costs to achieve compliance with certification standards and achieve certification in the first place?**

The expenses incurred with Toitū Envirocare were:

- \$7,070.00 for the one-off scope and boundaries workshop, and
- \$57,371.75 for set-up services, advice and audit and certification services.

Other than internal staff costs, the costs above represent the initial upfront costs to achieve external verification of our emissions inventory as required by the CNGP.

**Questions 4 and 5: Does the department plan to achieve Carbon Zero / Carbon Positive certification, and if so, why, and under what timeframe? If not, why?**

Inland Revenue plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 as required by the CNGP. This will be achieved by reducing our carbon emissions as much as possible prior to 2025 (and ongoing) and then offsetting the remaining emissions.

**Question 6: Has the department considered other certification / auditors, or in-house auditing of their climate emissions as an alternative to Toitū?**

Inland Revenue has gone to market with a Request for Proposal for verification services which align with the requirements of the CNGP. In-house auditing is not being considered as this would not meet the requirement for external verification.

**Publishing of OIA response**

Please note that Inland Revenue regularly publishes responses to requests that may be of interest to the wider public on its website. We consider this response is of public interest so will publish this response in due course. Your personal details or any information that would identify you will be removed prior to it being published.

Thank you again for your request.

Yours sincerely



Juliet Glass  
**Service Leader, Commercial Services and Strategic Property**