

Ref: OIA 2023-008

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21 April 2023

Tēnā koe ██████████

Thank you for your email of 28 March 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information related to Toitū certification.

I have responded to each of your questions below:

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

Following the Commission's establishment in late 2019, we joined the Toitū Carbon Reduce programme in the 2020/21 financial year.

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

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

The total annual membership fee for the Toitū Carbon Reduce programme is \$7,475.

As the Commission was a new entity when it joined the Toitū Carbon Reduce programme, we were able to align how we run our activities to meet certification requirements from the outset rather than needing to adjust or change existing systems. As a result, we have not incurred any additional costs.

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

a. *If not, why?*

To date, the Commission has been part of the Carbon Reduce programme, and not the Carbon Zero or Carbon Positive programmes.

However, we are committed to regularly reviewing our approach to managing our organisational emissions, as we are a growing organisation and will likely soon reach a steady operating state with all of our functions established.

The transparency and robustness of our emissions reporting remains integral to the Commission's work, and we will continue to have our emissions independently verified in line with the ISO standards.

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

Yes, the Commission has considered alternatives to Toitū.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Office of the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at:

www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Please note that the Commission has a policy of proactive release of responses to requests made under the Act to help others have access to more information. As a result, this letter will shortly be published on our website with your name and contact details redacted to protect your privacy.

Ngā mihi



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Climate Change Commission