



19 July 2023



Ref: OIA-2022/23-1035

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request: Spending on the 2015 and 2016 flag referenda

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 21 June 2023. You requested:

"I am interested in understanding, as much detail as possible, on how the NZ Government spent \$26 million dollars on a simple referendum on a new flag for our country in 2015/16."

The provisional financial results for the Flag Consideration Project were published in June 2016. These include results for the Flag Consideration Project as a whole, as well as the budget for which DPMC had responsibility. Those results can be found on the DPMC website at the following address:

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2017-03/budget-update-nzfcP-1jun2016.pdf>

The financial results include a breakdown of the costs associated with the Project according to its components – public consultation process, policy and legislation, referendums, and other costs. This was a provisional report. The final DPMC spend on the project was \$8.010 million (reported as \$7.957 million in the provisional report). The final DPMC spend appears in the department's annual report at <http://www.dPMC.govt.nz/dPMC/publications/ar-2016>

The Electoral Commission's report, which includes the final financial results and a breakdown, is available at <https://elections.nz/assets/2015-and-2016-flag-referendums/report-on-the-2015-and-2016-flag-referendums.pdf>

Further information about the Flag Consideration project is available on the DPMC website at the following address: <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/special-programmes/historical-programmes/flag-consideration-project>

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

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Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet