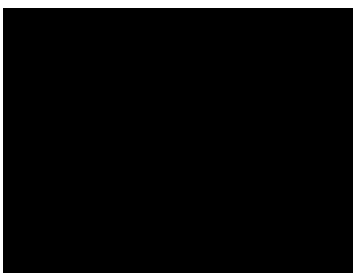


# TEACHING COUNCIL

NEW ZEALAND | Matatū Aotearoa



Thank you for your email of 29 January requesting information about the proposed changes to the fees under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I have responded to each of your questions below:

*How much money has the Teachers Council spent on financial advice, reviews and consultancy from external agencies in the years 2016 to 2020 inclusive?*

The Teaching Council has spent \$205,186 on financial advice, reviews, and consultancy with external agencies in the years 2016 to 2020 inclusive. This is broken down in the following table. You referenced PricewaterhouseCoopers in your question, the work undertaken by them related to an independent review of the Council's progress towards financial sustainability that was required by the funding agreement, which was commissioned and paid for by the Ministry of Education.

2015/2016	Grant Thornton	\$80,031	Primarily transitional advice to the new Council following the establishment of the Education Council on 1 July 2015.
2016/2017	Grant Thornton	\$2,911	Miscellaneous advice and reviews.
2016/2017	Deloitte	\$97,726	The funding agreement that provided the Education Council with interim funding of \$21.34m over three years required the Council to engage financial advisors to assist with development of a high quality, detailed business plan to meet the Council's functions under the Education Act. This included the development of a detailed financial model of the Council's activities.
2017/2018	Grant Thornton	\$2,015	Review of Annual Report disclosures.
2018/19	Deloitte	\$5,320	Deloitte reviewed the model that was used in the discussions with the Ministry of Education over the \$9.6m funding agreement extension to June 2020.
2018/2019	Grant Thornton	\$2,588	Review of Annual Report disclosures.
2018/2019	Grant Thornton	\$9,595	Grant Thornton were engaged to provide expert advice on how the Council could audit ITE institutions under the new ITE policy being developed by the Council.
2019/2020	Grant Thornton	\$5,000	Grant Thornton provided expert advice reviewing the ownership of the Online Services asset. The full cost to date for this work is \$10,000, which is being split between the Ministry and the Council.

TEACHING COUNCIL OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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*Does the teachers council intend to reduce, maintain, or increase the current rate of consultant expenditure in future? Please provide an aim, limit, or goal if applicable.*

The Council does not currently have any definite plans to use consultants for the provision of financial advice, reviews or consultancy services.

*This appears from an outside perspective to be an attempt getting unpalatable changes lost in the shuffle at the beginning of the school year. What was the chosen reasoning for the January 28th 2020 release of this information? Please provide copies of any correspondence which affirms this decision.*

There is no ideal time for a fee increase nor for a consultation period as teachers are extremely busy all year round. We felt that the end of last year was not a good idea as teachers were tired and at the end of a very busy year. The timing is necessary in order to ensure there is a clear outcome by 1 July 2020. We chose an online survey which is quick and simple to fill out but with plenty of space for feedback in the comments section. We set the consultation period for almost four weeks – and already received thousands of responses in the first few days - but if any teacher was unable to get their feedback to us by 21 February, we are open to extending the timeframe for them. However, in any future consultations we would send an email giving notice a week prior. Thank you for this feedback.

I hope that this information is sufficient for your purposes. However, if you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman who can be contacted by writing to: The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143, or [email:info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz). A complaint to the Ombudsman can also be made online at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/what-we-can-help/complaints-about-government-agencies/how-make-complaint>

Nāku noa, nā



Lesley Hoskin  
Chief Executive

