

Reference: 20210246

1 June 2021



Dear 

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 27 May 2021. You requested:

*how much money the government has spent on commissioned legal and strategic commercial advice and services to help address financial risks and reach an agreement with Rio Tinto over its planned closure of Tiwai Point aluminium smelter and the cost of site remediation.*

*Can you please provide a description of the advice and services purchased including the names of the third party providers.*

*Please cover the period from July 1, 2020 up to the present day.*

In November 2020, Cabinet agreed to \$2.3 million funding for the Crown's negotiations with Rio Tinto regarding the potential closure of the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter. \$300,000 of this funding was allocated and transferred to Environment Southland to support their environmental monitoring activities for the Tiwai site.

To date the Treasury has spent \$685,398 on commissioned legal and strategic commercial advice to support the Crown's negotiations.

The advice and services procured include commercial advice, legal advice, electricity and transmission information and advice, a desk-based environmental assessment, a regional economic impact update, and environmental, social and governance advice. These services and advice have been provided by Goldman Sachs New Zealand, MinterEllisonRuddWatts, AECOM, Aurecon, Infometrics, and SBA Consulting.

This information can also be found in the [2021/22 Estimates for Vote Finance - Minister of Finance \(Vote Finance 2021 pre-hearing questions responses\)](#).

The Treasury funds spent to date do not include Treasury Full Time Equivalent (FTE) or any contractors who backfilled FTE positions at the Treasury. The Ministry of

Business Innovation and Employment and the Ministry for the Environment supported the Crown's negotiations, and any costs they incurred are not included in the Treasury's spending.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Maureena van der Lem  
**Manager, Commercial Performance**